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A. About PPD

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an Intergovernmental Alliance of 25 developing countries from across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East; representing 58% of the world population. The Alliance was formed during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 with the aim of promote and strengthen South-South Cooperation in the field of Reproductive Health, Population and Development within the framework of ICPD Program of Action (PoA), which was subsequently reinforced by the MDGs adopted by world community in 2000. PPD enjoys high level reputation and creditworthiness worldwide Intergovernmental Organization and South-South cooperation is universally acknowledged as efficient, cost-effective and result oriented modality for sustainable development for global south.

PPD started its journey with 10 Member Countries; the founding countries are Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Fifteen more countries joined within the umbrella of PPD during the course of journey; the countries are Benin, China, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, India, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and South Africa.

**Mission of PPD:** PPD an Intergovernmental Alliance of developing countries is committed to improving the quality of life of people through sustained advocacy, capacity building, networking, knowledge sharing and management and transfer of technology in the field of reproductive health, population and development within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

**Strategic Directions:** There are four central pillars that constitute strategic priorities of PPD i.e. **Align** with member countries priorities, **Advocate** for South-South Cooperation in areas of Reproductive Health, Population and Development, **Alliance** building at all levels, **Assets** creation and consolidation for the Alliance’s sustainability.

i. **Vision**

An Inter-Governmental Alliance leading the promotion of South-South Cooperation towards attainment of the global population and RH agenda for sustainable development.

ii. **Mission**

PPD, an Inter-Governmental Alliance of developing countries is committed to improving the quality of life of people through sustained advocacy, capacity building, networking, knowledge sharing and management and transfer of technology in the field of reproductive health, population and development within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

iii. **Strategic Direction**

PPD has four priority areas which are the central pillars of its Strategic Plan:
• **ALIGN with member countries’ priorities:**
The Alliance aligns and is responsive to Member Countries’ priorities in RH and Rights, including Family Planning (FP) and HIV/AIDS, and Population and Development.

• **ADVOCATE for the alliance and its priorities:**
The Alliance advocates for the promotion of RH, Population and Development program through South-South Cooperation.

• **ALLIANCES building at all levels:**
The Alliance builds networks, reinforces partnership and enhances Coalition Building to promote the ICPD Program of Action (PoA) and MDGs.

• **ASSETS creation and consolidation for the Alliance’s sustainability:**
The Alliance strives to increase its financial base and assets for supporting South-South Cooperation activities in a sustainable way, by diversifying its sources of funding and increasing its capital assets.

iv. **The value added of PPD**

PPD is a unique southern-led and southern-run Inter-Governmental organization that is focused on South-South Collaboration for RH, Population and Development.

• PPD Governing Board is comprised of high level policy makers including Cabinet Ministers (of the Ministries of Health, Population, Planning, Finance, etc.). The Governing Board ensures the highest commitments from policy level as well as financial commitment of the governments of the alliance.

• The board members of PPD are the key advocates at national, regional and global levels for advancing the SRHR agenda towards achieving universal access to RH and sustainable development.

• PPD has a well-established South-South Country Coordinating mechanism. Each member country has a designated focal person, usually a senior government official (at the level of a Joint Secretary or Director in the respective ministries) who works with the Board Member for providing leadership and coordinating South-South Cooperation activities.

• In each Member Country, PPD has a National Task Force for South-South Cooperation (NTFSSC). The NTFSSC has an inclusive membership of ‘like-minded’ key stakeholders in the SRHR, Population and Development arena including donors, public sector, UN agencies, civil society and private sector. The NTFSSC is instrumental in prioritizing key
country context policy and program advocacy agenda as well as fostering partnerships for sharing best practices, resources and technical expertise for SRHR, Population and Development programming.

- PPD works with 21 Partner Institutions (PIs) that are national, regional training and research institutions in Asia, Africa, Middle-East and Latin-America (list of PIs is available on the PPD website), to promote and build national capacity in management, leadership, operations research, policy and advocacy and exchange of South-South expertise and resources for RH/FP and Population programs in member countries.
- PPD facilitates and coordinates Regional Networks (based on regional economies) to actualize scaling-up and expansion of best practices in SHRH, among its member and non-member countries.
- PPD works with networks of Parliamentarian Committees on Health and Population to advocate for political and financial commitment as well as to advance the national, regional and global SRHR and population agenda for sustainable development.

v. PPD Governance Structure

- PPD is governed by a Board constituted of Members (Cabinet Minister or his/her representative, appointed by each Member Country).
- The leadership of the Board consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer elected by the Board for a three years term and who constitute the Executive Committee of the organization.
- The Board appoints an Executive Committee comprised of a Chairperson (Cabinet Minister), Vice Chair (Cabinet Minister), Secretary (Cabinet Minister or his/her designate), Treasurer (Cabinet Minister or his/her designate) and three other Board Members (Cabinet Ministers or designates).
- The Board appoints a Program, Planning and Development Committee. The Chairperson is a Board Member who is a Cabinet Minister and the Vice-Chair is the Board Secretary.
- The Board also appoints a Finance and Risk Management Committee. The Chairperson is a Board Member who is a Cabinet Minister and the Vice-Chair is the Board Treasurer.

B. Governance

The PPD Board meets once each year to discuss the governance, policy, programmatic and financial issues while the Executive Committee meets once between the Board Meetings to provide guidance to and evaluate the achievements of the organization. The By-Laws signed by each member state regulate the governance and functioning of the organization.

i. PPD Board met in Dhaka

The 17th Annual Board meeting of PPD took place in Dhaka on 12th November 2012. The meeting was supervised by H.E. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Honorable Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Government of India and Chair of PPD Board Member. The Board was updated and discussed the accomplished activities in the year of 2011 and pledged to continue the support among member countries to strengthen the commitment of South-South cooperation. Moreover, the Board
approved the minutes of Sixteenth Annual Board Meeting, Nineteenth and Twentieth Executive Committee Meeting. Presentations and vigorous discussions were held on secretary’s report, host country’s report, treasurer’s report, Executive Director’s report in the meeting agenda. The Board also planned to hold the next Annual Board meeting in China on November, 2013, and 21th executive committee meeting in Uganda.

ii. 20th and 21st Executive Committee Meetings; held in Kenya and Dhaka

20th Executive Committee Meeting
20th Executive Committee Meeting of PPD was held in Nairobi from 13 to 15 February 2012. The Meeting was hosted by the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030, Government of the Republic of Kenya.

Dr. Lorna Tumwebaze, Deputy Executive Director of PPD presented the report on the progress made during November 2011 to January 2012 to the Executive Committee. As a key activity of the meeting, appointment of Dr. Joe Thomas as the 5th Executive Director of PPD.

21st Executive committee meeting
21st Executive committee meeting of PPD took place in Dhaka on 10th November 2012. Presentations and discussions of the Program and Finance committee meeting were the key issues in the agenda which took place just before the Executive Committee Meeting. In absence of the Executive Committee’s Vice-chair, treasurer and two members; representatives from respective countries participated the meeting on behalf of them.

iii. Partners Country Coordinators (PCCs) of PPD Member Countries met twice in Tunisia and Dhaka in 2012

The 4th Partners Country Coordinators (PCCs) meeting for Africa region
The fourth Partners Country Coordinators (PCCs) meeting for Africa region was held at Lido Hotel – La Goullete, Tunis, Tunisia from the 25 to 29 of June 2012. The objective of the meeting was to share experiences and challenges of PPD work in Africa and discussed about the best ways aiming at improving collaboration between member countries. PCCs and delegates of PPD member countries named Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, The Gambia, Tunisia, Uganda and South Africa participants in the meeting. It would be mentioned that the member countries named Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe were not able to attend the meeting for other equally important commitments. The meeting was also attended by delegates from EARHN member countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania as observers.

The Annual Partner Country Coordinators Meeting of PPD
The Annual Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meeting of PPD was also held in Dhaka on November 9, 2012; coordinators from 25 partner countries presented in the meeting and represented respective countries as well as their activities for PPD. The discussion of PCC’s capacity building in terms of aims and activities focused by PPD was the agenda of the meeting.
C. Exchange of RH/FP Commodities and Technologies to meet Member Country’s Need

i. MoU signed between PPD and Government of China to Transfer Commodities and technologies from China to Bangladesh

Government of China and PPD signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in 2006 to provide assistance for PPD member countries in the area of Capacity Building, Sharing of Expertise and Technology, Commodity Security and Supply. In the course of this MoU, China has provided 27 medical equipments (from portable ultrasound to anesthesiology machines) to Bangladesh with an aim to create a Center of Excellence for providing Reproductive Health services. In a handed ceremony organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh at Mohammadpur Fertility and Training Center (MFTC) in Dhaka on 19th June 2012, H.E AFM Ruhul Haque Member, PPD Board and Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh received the medical equipment from the Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Li Jun.

In this occasion, PPD appreciated the areas of cooperation such as equipment support, training and commodity supply for family planning offered by the Government of China to Bangladesh, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya under South-South Cooperation.

ii. China’s Technical and Consultative Support to PPD Member Countries

PPD China office provided technical and consultative support for member countries on the following areas:

1) Support for analytic study on reproductive health commodity security including global implant supply and demand, price trend and the purchase status of major international organizations, and contraceptive use and demand in selected African countries;
2) Support for study and analysis on international cooperation in population and development including the history development, milestone events, China’s practice and future prospects of SSC in population and development;
3) Support for Study and analysis on government department setting in population and family planning of 21 countries;
4) Support to analyze the outcome Statement of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development;
5) Support to prepare the concept paper on the localization of international cooperation programs;
D. PPD advocate for South-South Collaboration at national and international level

i. PPD organized International Inter-Ministerial Conference in Dhaka

PPD has successfully organized an International Inter-Ministerial Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 10-11 November 2012. The theme of the conference was “Evidence for Action: South-South Collaboration for ICPD Beyond 2014”. It is well recognized that the Program of Action (PoA) of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has been implemented through South-South Cooperation; but it has also been commonly acknowledged that the evidence based information was missing. For addressing this concern, the conference was arranged on this topic of improving the understanding of the inter-linkages between population, reproductive health and development. The conference tried to identify how the national and international agencies and government can respond for appropriate plans and can motivate political will for actions in this regards.

More than 150 participants from different countries attended this two days long Conference; in the nine sessions of the conference different issues in population, reproductive health, development and women empowerment was presented and discussed by the panel. Resource persons from different countries, representatives development organizations and country representatives presented their research in the conference. Finally the panel of the session came up with Dhaka declaration which includes Universal Access to reproductive health and Family Planning, South – South Cooperation to move forward the London Family Planning Summit Commitments, Rights Based programming for adolescents and other Vulnerable group, Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, South –South Partnership for HIV/AIDS response, Advocacy for frame work convention on Global Health, Gender Equity, Equality and Women Empowerment for sustainable empowerment etc.

Opening Ceremony of the Conference

The opening ceremony of the conference was chaired by H.E. Prof. A. F. M. Ruhal Haque, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh along with H.E. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and Chair of PPD Board, H.E. Mr. Chen Li, Honorable Vice Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission, Government of People's Republic of China, H.E. Mrs.
Isatou Njie-Saidy, Member, PPD Board and Honorable Vice President and Secretary, State for Women's Affairs, Government of the Gambia. Chief Guest of the opening ceremony was Mr. Abul Maal Muhit, Honorable Finance Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The closing ceremony was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and Chair of PPD Board, along with H.E. Mr. Chen Li, Honorable vice Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission, Government of People’s Republic of China, H.E. Prof. A. F. M. Ruhal Haque, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Dr. Joe Thomas, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development.

ii. **PPD celebrated the National Safe Motherhood Day-2012**

PPD Celebrated the Safe Motherhood Day’ on 28th May 2012 with the theme of ‘Safe delivery is a mother’s right.’ To celebrate the day PPD joined in a rally in Dhaka organized by The Ministry of Health and Family welfare of Bangladesh with more than 1,500 people from different national and international bodies. The PPD Secretariat staffs also joined hands with their sub-recipient partner called Safe Motherhood Program Partner Disabled Rehabilitation & Research Association (DRRA), to actively participate in the colorful whole day and nationwide celebrated safe motherhood event.

The safe motherhood rally was flagged off by Dr. Captain (Retd.) Mozibur Rahman Fakir, the Honorable State Minister of Health & Family Welfare of Bangladesh. The safe motherhood rally celebrations, culminated in a national celebration program on Safe Motherhood that was held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, Bangladesh presided over by her Excellency, The Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and attended by Ministers, Heads of UN agencies, PPD leadership and other key development partners. In her key remarks, the Prime Minister urged the international and domestic level communities to join hands with the Government of Bangladesh to ensure ‘safe delivery of every new born and the health of mothers’ to build a healthy nation. In such a colorful day of celebration, PPD implored to all its member countries, development partners, duty bearers to collectively work towards making every baby and the mother’s life count.

iii. **PPD Secretariat Participates in the World Population day Celebration in Bangladesh**

The Population Day 2012 was observed in Bangladesh on 11th July 2012 with the theme of ‘Universal accesses to Reproductive health services’. The Ministry of Health and Family welfare of Bangladesh organized a rally in Dhaka as the part of the Population Day celebration; PPD Secretariat staff actively participated in that rally and other events of nationwide celebration of the day event with more than 1,500 people from different national and international bodies.
National celebration program for the Population Day was held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka; Bangladesh presided over by Professor Dr. Syed Modasser Ali, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Ministry of health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Social Affair. Dr. Capt (Rtd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir Honorable State Minster Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Heads of UN agencies, PPD leadership and other key development partners were also attended this event.

iv. **PPD China Program Office produced brochure and redesigned website to promote greater Advocacy and Information Sharing for SSC**

PPD China has committed for extensive awareness building among policy makers and relevant stakeholders regarding South-South Cooperation; in this purpose they are focusing on promoting greater advocacy and information sharing. For the advocacy purpose, a comprehensive brochure on China’s SSC in population and development has been produced with the support of UNFPA and NPFPC. This brochure mainly includes four parts: China’s policies on SSC, global challenges in population and development, China’s progress and experiences in population, reproductive health and family planning, and China’s international cooperation in population and development. This brochure is available in English and Chinese. The brochure portrays a very comprehensive picture of China’s SSC in population and development and it is widely distributed among local and international stakeholders such as government departments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, PPD China continued its efforts in renewing the Information Platform of Population and Development in SSC (www.sscpop.cn). The new redesigned website has changed the information architecture, set up new home page and put additional content on SSC, which becomes clearer and more user friendly format.
v. Meeting with Members of Parliament from Uganda on SEAPACOH 2011 commitments and the Uganda President’s pledges at the London FP Summit

PPD African Regional Office arranged a breakfast meeting with Member of Parliament from Uganda in July 19, 2012 at Imperial Royal Hotel, Kampala.

The objective of the meeting was to follow up with Member of Parliaments on progress regarding the implementation of their commitments made during the 2011 SEAPACOH meeting and also to disseminate the commitment made by the President of Uganda at the London summit and also to discuss the way forward regarding the role of MPs within this new development in favor of FP in the country.

Mr. Abdelylah Lakssir, IPO at PPD ARO made a presentation on the commitment made by the President of Uganda at the London summit followed by a discussion where the following pledges were presented.

- Ugandan MPs pledged to ensure that the President’s commitments are realized by ensuring that the MoF puts the additional funds in the next budget FY 2013/2014 as well as the next subsequent fiscal years and that the funds are disbursed to NMS and allocated to the reproductive health (RH) supplies budget line at NMS. The MPs agreed that they will pressure on both the MoF and NMS to ensure that the additional money is released and spent properly.
- MPs were pleased to inform the community that mamma kits would be available at the health facilities and in free of charge for all expectant mothers to address issues of low uptake in communities and to improve the rate of delivery in health facilities.
- MPs will examine how to improve the capacity of staff at HC III to provide implants and how task-shifting can improve access to family planning (such as implants) in rural areas.
- MPs committed to put pressure on the government to remove the tax on contraceptives. The MoH wrote a letter informing Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) that contraceptives are classified as essential commodities according to the WHO.
- MPs also promised to advocate for VHTs to cover all areas of the country. The MPs will take up this issue with the commissioner responsible for recruiting and training VHTs at the MoH.
- MPs also decided to promote private sector involvement and to put pressure on the MoH and NMS to address supply chain leakages.

On July 25, 2012 PPD ARO had a meeting at Imperial Royal Hotel, Kampala, Uganda and with journalists from New Vision, Monitor, Observer papers and NTV, NBS, UBC televisions as well as radio stations including radio one, Sanyu FM, CBS, and Capital FM. The meeting was also attended by selected FP champions from the Parliament of Uganda.

The purpose of the meeting was to disseminate the President’s commitment for FP at the London Summit.

The meeting was moderated by Mr. Jude Ssenyonojo, Program Manager at CCP Uganda and the main presenter was Mr. Abdelylah Lakssir, IPO at PPD ARO who shared and discussed the President pledges with the participants. In his presentation, Mr. Lakssir detailed the commitment made as well.
as the way forward to make these commitments a reality, focusing of the role to be played by all parties involved in advocacy partners including media.

As an outcome of the meeting the media representatives appreciated and welcomed the initiative of involving them in following up these commitments and a detailed report on these commitments was broadcasted in their respective TV/Radio stations.

vi. The Fifth regional parliamentary meeting (SEAPACOH meeting)

PPD ARO, in conjunction with the Southern and Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance of Committees on Health (SEAPACOH) organized a Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees of Health in Southern and Eastern Africa that was held on August 29-31, 2012 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda. This was the Fifth in a series of regional parliamentary meetings that are held annually under the auspices of SEAPACOH.

The meeting participants were Chairpersons (or their designates) of Parliamentary Committees on Health and their Committee Clerks, as well representatives of development partners, NGOs, Civil Society and other important stakeholders engaged in Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Maternal Health programmes.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review progress, share experiences and lessons learnt over the past one year on the implementation of the commitments that the parliamentarians agreed to take action on in their respective countries during the 2011 SEAPACOH meeting. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Provide a forum for exchange of information and good practices, achievements and challenges on the implementation of the commitments agreed at the Sept 2011 SEAPACOH meeting;
- Receive updates on the situation regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region especially as they come up for review in 2015;
- Share experiences and good practices on repositioning of FP for the achievement of the ICPD and MDGs;
- Develop priority action plans for the parliamentarians to engage wider policy, technical and other audiences in repositioning family planning and reproductive health; and
- Strengthen the institution of SEAPACOH

The outcomes of the of the meeting were participants with more capacity and knowledge about some FP/RH issues and linkages (e.g., demographic dividend, health worker shortages) and advocacy programs (e.g., ICPD and MDG review processes) and focused (1 to 3) country commitments specifying, timeline and responsible parties for each commitment. It is worth noting that for this commitment PPD ARO strategized to make them in line with the London Summit pledges.

vii. The Regional Director of PPD ARO attended the Sixth Annual Conference on Population, Reproductive Health, and Economic Development

Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, the Regional Director of PPD ARO attended the Sixth Annual Conference on Population, Reproductive Health, and Economic Development held in Accra, Ghana from January 18–
21, 2012. The meeting was sponsored by the Hewlett Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau, and was hosted by the University of Ghana.

This year’s annual meeting brought together the world’s most prominent researchers on population, reproductive health, family planning, and economic development. Invitees included experts from around the world, focusing particularly on African economics researchers and those conducting research in African countries.

Dr. Musinguzi discussed the importance of connecting research findings to policy. He also used that event as an opportunity to share with participants the nature of work PPD is doing globally and regionally.

viii. Breakfast meeting with DSW and Members of Parliament on the Africa demographic challenges

On February 22, 2012, Dr. Musinguzi participated in a Parliamentarians breakfast meeting organized by DSW at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. The purpose of the breakfast meeting was to disseminate findings of the Africa Demographic Challenges study.

This study was published as a part of the awareness raising campaign “Africa’s Demographic Challenges” and is implemented by: DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung) (project leader), Berlin Institute for Population and Development, Austrian Foundation for World Population and International Co-operation, and BOCS Foundation.

At the meeting, Dr. Musinguzi presented a paper on Africa’s Demographic Challenges: How a young population can make development possible.

The outcome of the meeting was participants with deep understanding of the concept of demographic dividend and how investment in family planning can pave the way for development.

ix. Consultation meeting with Commonwealth Medical Trust (COMMAT)

In partnership with COMMAT, PPD ARO held a consultation meeting on March 29, 2012 at Royal Club, Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda. The objective of the meeting was to share advocacy opportunities around the ICPD beyond 2014 as a means of raising a common advocacy voice to propel the FP/RH agenda. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Executive Director of PPD, Dr. Lorna Tumwebaze and the participants list included: members of parliament, representatives of NGOs, CSOs and representatives of the Government of Uganda and four staff from PPD ARO and a representative of COMMAT on the names of Marianne Haslegrave

The outcomes of the meeting were:

- Disseminated upcoming advocacy events around the ICPD beyond 2014, and
- Identified opinion leaders, key organizations and mechanisms/opportunities for future conversations at country, regional and global levels;

It was also agreed that, there is need to explore possibilities of organizing visits for African Members of Parliament to European Parliaments.
x. Tracking of government funding for FP/RH commodities in Uganda

Through its advocacy work PPD ARO was able to triple government funds in Uganda for family planning supplies by working with the Ministries of Health and Finance, the National Medical Stores, and Parliamentarians to streamline funding. So as to make sure that the committed funds is spent on FP/RH commodities, PPD ARO hired a consultant under AFP project to track the government financing for FP/RH commodities FY 2011/2012 and FY 2012/2013. The duration of this consultancy was for 95 days spread over 7 months starting April 1, 2012.

On July 18, 2012 PPD ARO held a meeting with the consultant to discuss the findings from this consultancy and to agree of the way forward.

In his feedback the consultant highlighted that the Government of Uganda’s commitment to ensure constant availability of contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities in the public sector has been demonstrated over the past few years through committing resources for procurement of contraceptives by the National Medical Stores.

There has been a steady rise in allocation of funds for procurement of contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities. In FY 2010/11, NMS procured reproductive health commodities worth UGX 7.2 billion and that has increased to UGX 7.5 Billion in FY 2011/12. It has been confirmed that allocations for FY 2012/13 has increased to UGX 8 billion. Significantly, there has been 100% expenditure on allocation for the last financial years (FY 2010/11 and FY 2011/12). In addition to financial commitments, the Government of Uganda has categorized contraceptives as essential and Vital for the health care system commodities. This implies that in case of scarcity of resource, contraceptives should be prioritized and should never experience stock outs at any time of the year.

Among the findings, it was revealed that the Government of Uganda through National Medical Stores has established an alternative distribution system to cater for the CSOs that are involved in provision of contraceptives during community outreach services.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that there is need for all FP/RH advocates to actively support this positive trend in ensuring contraceptive availability at national level and service delivery points in the public and private sector.

xi. Implementation of the Uganda advocacy plan to track the contraceptive flow at the district level

As part of the implementation of the Advocacy Plan developed by the Ugandan team during the Spitfire training supported by AFP in 2011, in Nairobi, a tracking tool to assess the flow of contraceptive at the health facilities developed by PPD ARO staff was used by Population Secretariat staff to assess the flow, availability and other issues related to the logistic system of contraceptives as a pilot in two health facilities namely Mukono and Mayuge.

The aim of this intervention is to rationalize to the logistic system of contraceptive through the implementation of a Pull System of FP commodities in all health facilities in Uganda.

This activity took place between August 6, and August 10, 2012 | Mayuge district and during the first week of September 2012 in Mukono.
The data captured during the exercise is yet to be entered for analysis, and a detailed report will be available for dissemination by the end of October 2012.

E. Strengthening Partnership for implementing SRH/FP programs in the Member Countries

i. Three consultative meetings on Raising Voice from the South held in Dhaka

First Partners Meeting of National Taskforce (NTF) of Bangladesh on Raising Voices from the South for Integration of Human Rights Based Approach to Maternal Health was held at the Directorate General of Family Planning premises in Dhaka on 21st June 2012. The objective of this meeting was to introduce the project to the National Taskforce members and to share and request feedback on a draft situation analysis report prepared by reviewing international treaties, commitments, gaps in implementations and status of maternal health in Bangladesh.

Participants of the consultative meeting

Dr. Lorna Tumwebaze delivered a speech in this occasion where she described on PPD’s commitments and anticipated that all NTF members and other professionals to provide their invaluable inputs to make the project a success one. She proclaimed that her organization believe that the human rights provide a framework for governments to take action, and in particular to ensure that their laws and policies are supportive of maternal health and do not present barriers.

Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PCC of PPD and Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director (MCH-Services, Directorate General of Family Planning were also attended the meeting. Dr. Mahbubur Rashid, Senior Program officer of PPD made a presentation on the overview of the project and Mr. Hiren representative of DRRA presented on situation analysis on maternal health in the context of Human rights based approach in Bangladesh.

The Second stakeholder meeting was held at the National Press Club Auditorium in Dhaka on 1st August 2012. The objective of this meeting was to introduce the project to different stakeholder and to share and request feedback on a draft situation analysis report prepared by reviewing international treaties, commitments, gaps in implementations and status of maternal health in Bangladesh.
Participants of the Second Stakeholder Meeting

Dr. Joe Thomas, Executive Director of PPD briefing the journalists

The consultative meeting generated fruitful discussion; journalists and birth-attendants made recommendations on integrating HRBA in maternal health programs in Bangladesh. The issues that has been discussed in the consultative meeting was prevention of early marriage, education for woman, prevention of dowry and acid violence, timely access to health care during pregnancy and birth spacing. Dr. Joe Thomas, Executive Director of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) reiterated the importance of HRBA to ensure maternal health services and he requested to the journalists to disseminate the key messages of the meeting to increase allocation of resources in national budget for maternal health.

This project was funded by World Bank and PPD partners with DRRA to implement in Bangladesh with the full support of National Taskforce (NTF) for South-South Cooperation under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. The project aimed to enhance capacity of relevant government officials and key stakeholders in maternal health to improve their policies and programs and make them more equitable and supportive for women and girls especially for them who are most vulnerable. It is also expected that the project helps countries to establish effective mechanisms of accountability, non-discrimination, partnership building for the prevention of unacceptably needless maternal deaths and injuries accounted each year.

ii. STEP-UP Partners Consultative Meeting with National Task Force, Donor Organizations and Development Partners.

PPD in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and partners of STEP-UP project in Bangladesh organized a consultative meeting with the members of National Task Force (NTF) on 18 September 2012 at the office of Directorate General of Family Planning, IEM Conference Hall in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was attended by stakeholders including national task force
members and representative from the donor organizations and development partners. The objective of the meeting was to introduce STEP-UP partners to the NTF members. Project background, objectives of the project and expected outputs was presented briefly to the NTF members. Moreover the consortium’s planned activities in partnership with the NTF members for the preliminary inputs was shared in the meeting and aimed to create a platform for technical inputs in country profile as a output of the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. A K M Amir Hossain, Additional Secretary and Director General. Dr. Mohammad Sharif, DG of Family Planning and Director (MCH-Services), Line Director (MC-RAH) and Member Secretary of the National Task Force welcomed the members and participants in the meeting and briefed about the STEP-UP project and its partners in Bangladesh.

Dr. Joe Thomas, Executive Director of PPD highlighted PPD’s priority focus areas and linked PPD’s priority to the STEP-UP research outputs. He also added that the inputs of the step-up project would help the developing countries to expedite the progress of achieving the ICPD and MDGs.

Dr. Lorna Tumwebaze, PPD Deputy Executive Director, made a presentation on PPD’s Role in STEP-UP Project in Bangladesh. Dr. Tumwebaze indicated three major areas where PPD could involve under this project. The major areas are communicate and increase research evidence, capacity building for partnership and networking. Dr. Tumwebaze explained the expected contribution and role of the NTF members/key stakeholders to the STEP-UP project.

The discussions were wrapped up by Mr. A K M Zafar-Ullah Khan of Population Council who was the former Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Mr. A K M Amir Hossain, the chairman of the NTF and Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning and Additional Secretary of Government of Bangladesh delivered his concluding remarks. He thanked PPD for associating NTF members for utilizing their expertise and experiences in vetting the country profile and policy and programmatic implications in Bangladesh. He concluded the meeting with the commitment for providing support and cooperation to STEP-UP consortium for successful implementation of the project and achieving outcomes.

iii. Policy Dialogue and Capacity Building: Foreign Assistance Programs of China

Under the support of Chinese government including National Population and Family Planning Commission of China (NPFPC), Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), Partners in Population
and Development (PPD) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), PPD China has successfully organized three foreign assistance programs in 2012. The programs are

1) Seminar on Population and Development for Anglophone African Countries (July 9th to 29th, 2012)

As the most populous country, China has made tremendous efforts in the field of maternal & child health care and endeavors to realize coordinated and sustainable population management. Those seminars are designed focusing two areas: maternal & child health care and population and development, which serve as platforms for China and African countries to share information and strengthen capacity building and develop partnership.

Through in-class lectures, speeches and discussions of these three seminars participants not only learnt about population issues on the macro, but also get familiar with China’s experiences and practices on the micro level, such as family planning/reproductive health program management, health service network, reproductive health commodity supply system etc. Through field visits, observation tours and sightseeing, the participants had the chance to better understand the work of China’s maternal and child care, program management, RH service provision as well as macro population management.

The programs cover most of the African countries including both Anglophone countries and Francophone countries. Altogether 92 participants from 27 African countries attended including 1 official at ministry’s level. Among them, 29 participants from 8 PPD member countries, namely Benin, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia attended in the seminars.

PPD China organized an International Seminar on July 4th, 2012 for South-South Cooperation on NGO Capacity Building in Population and Reproductive Health. It was jointly hosted by NPFPC, IPPF and the International Council on Management of Population Programs (ICOMP). The seminar was aimed to strengthen the cooperation among NGOs of East and Southeast Asian countries in the field of population and family planning/reproductive health through in-depth discussions and information exchanges. The topics discussed in the seminar included cooperative mechanism between governments and NGOs, adolescents and sexual and reproductive health, development of reproductive technology, statistics and analysis of population data etc. The participants were also invited to attend Asian Symposium on Building Sustainable Ageing Societies, to have in-depth discussions on ageing-related issues, which is a serious population trend in the region posing challenges for economic growth. The seminar brought together 25 representatives of NGOs from 11 countries including Vietnam.

v. **The fifth Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN)**

Ministry of Health of the Government Republic of Rwanda, Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) and Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) organized the EARHN Coordination meeting as well as a field visit for selected successful MCH programs in Rwanda. The EARHN Coordination meeting was held on May 21 – 22, 2012 and the field visit took place on May 23 – 24, 2012.

The objectives of the coordination meeting and study visit were to:

- Exchange of information and to promote good and innovative practices for repositioning FP/RH in the region;
- Share experiences, progress, achievements and challenges in the implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan in-country;
• Expose the EARHN member countries to some of the successful MCH programs of Rwanda with a view to having good practices learned replicated in the EARHN member countries where applicable;

• Develop recommendations for effective implementation of country level advocacy action plans for reposition family planning and reproductive health.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to review progress towards the implementation of the in-country advocacy plans, developed under the EARHN initiative supported by AFP. As outcome of this review Kenya and Tanzania come out with more focused and result oriented advocacy plan.

In addition, two days field visit to some selected health facilities gave the opportunity to the participants to be exposed to the FP/RH programs that are operating in the country and to know about the health package services they provide to the population. It was also an opportunity for participants to visit and interact with health workers including community health workers and discuss with them the way they are involved in the provision of health services.

During the field visit, the participants were impressed by the way the Government of Rwanda is moving in term of improving access to health services including FP/RH and learn more about the health strategy in Rwanda which is built around three pillars:

• Investment in strong prevention interventions of major diseases: Prevention services are delivered free-of-charge to the entire population.

• Access to curative care through voluntary, pre-paid health insurance: Curative care are accessible to Rwandan citizens via voluntary, community-based health insurance schemes.

• Performance based financing to improve quality of care: All entities involved in health care and insurance delivery and management are engaged in performance-based contracts and financing to encourage high quality of care.

As a result of the adopted health strategy, the country has observed significant improvement in health. For example, the use of modern contraceptives raised from 4 % in 2000 to 45 % in 2010. More than 87% of Rwanda’s population has been enrolled in mutual and independent evaluations. Evaluation result evident that the access and use of health care increased among beneficiaries, even among the lower spending population.

vi. Capacity building workshop on resource mobilization in Ethiopia

The Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia who are also the Chair of Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) jointly organized a training workshop with PPD African Regional Office for EARHN focal persons; the focus of the workshop was on resource mobilization. The workshop was held on February 08-10, 2012 at Intercontinental Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The course was attended by 30 participants from Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda along with PPD ARO staffs. The course was facilitated by Dr Jonathan Spangler from Center for African Family Studies (CAFS) located in Nairobi, Kenya.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

• Improve participants’ knowledge in the resource mobilization fundamentals as well as new approaches beyond proposal writing;
• Enable participants to take part in a proposal development process including researching opportunities, selecting partners, designing program strategies and approaches, submitting tenders and following-up with donors and clients; and
• Create a framework/action plan that will guide the participants in the design and the implementation of a resource mobilization strategy to foster the agreed on advocacy plan per country.

The outcomes of the course were participants with enhanced skill to design and implement a resource mobilization strategy; write a winning project proposal; and better understanding of new marketing strategies and income diversification.

vii. Capacity building workshop for African Women Parliamentarians

Partners in Population and Development –Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) organized a two-day capacity building workshop for African women parliamentarians.

The main objective of the meeting was to enhance the skills and advocacy capacity of Women Parliamentarians who are often called upon to address issues of FP/RH as well as to develop country level advocacy action plans to prioritize FP/RH in their respective countries.

Participants to the meeting of Women Parliamentarians from the HPP focus countries of Malawi, Ghana, Ethiopia and Uganda and the meeting convened in Kampala-Uganda, at Speke Resort Munyonyo from 27th-28th August 2012.

The workshop was funded by HPP, AFP and was facilitated by APHRC, PPD-ARO and CEDPA.

The achievement of the workshop was

• Women MPs appreciated and understood the linkage between FP/RH and socioeconomic development and their roles in increasing the visibility of FP/RH.
• It was assumed that the Women MPs’ gathered extensive skills and capacity for advocacy for FP/RH issues through this workshop.
• Country Specific action plans for advocacy focusing on FP/RH were addressed and commitments were made by women MPs to implement the plan in their respective countries.
• A network of Women Members of Parliament in the region was created to address Family Planning/Reproductive Health challenges and share experiences.
• Women Parliamentarians made commitment to engage their governments to increase funding for family planning.

viii. Africa Regional Consultation on Achieving MDG 5: Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned

In partnership with Ministry of Health of Uganda and Women Deliver, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) organized an “Africa Regional Consultation Meeting on Achieving MDG 5: Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned”. This meeting took place on March 27-28, 2012 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, in Kampala, Uganda.
Expert consultation took place on that event focusing on regional best practices, success stories and challenges to improve maternal and reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa. A total of 246 Government Officials, Parliamentarians, civil society as well as private sector representative attended the two day long high-level consultation meeting. The road map for future progress and the development landscape were reviewed in the light of the International Conference on Population and Development’s (ICPD) Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5).

It was decided from the consultation that the recommendations from this meeting would be widely disseminated and will be used to shape up the agenda for Women Deliver 2013, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from May 28 to 30, 2013.

The meeting was supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Danish International Development Agency, MSD, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UNAIDS and The World Bank.

ix. **Meeting with selected parliamentarians from Ghana to review SEAPACOH 2011 commitments**

Mr. Patrick Mugirwa, Program Officer at PPD ARO attended a meeting of selected parliamentarians from Parliament of Ghana; the meeting was at Parliament Building, Accra on July 19, 2012. The objectives of the meeting were to make a follow up, review and receive progress reports regarding the implementation and fulfillment of family planning advocacy commitments that were agreed by the Parliamentarians of Ghana in 2011 at SEAPACOH meeting. Honourable PPD Board Member of Ghana and PCC of Ghana, representatives from the National Population Council of Ghana, Ministry of Health, the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana and the Alliance for Reproductive Health and Rights were present in the meeting. The meeting was organized by NPC of Ghana sponsored by PPD ARO/HPP.

The meeting developed a forward that outlined a number of key action points to fulfill the SEAPACOH 2011 commitments that was later to become the basis for Ghana parliamentarians to report on during the SEAPACOH 2012 meeting.

x. **Training of Providers in Long Term Contraceptive Methods at Mukono and Mayuge Districts in Uganda**

Opening of new outlets and service delivery points was identified as one of the strategies by training health providers in providing long term methods for FP; the focus was to increase the access of Family Planning services in general and respond to the increased demand for long term acting method in particular. PPD ARO through Advance Family Planning (AFP) project supported the training of 25 providers from Mukono (15) and Mayuge (10) districts in Uganda in the family planning techniques and counseling related to the long term methods. The training was conducted during the month of April, 2012.

The training curriculum developed by the Ministry of Health was used as a reference for the training and facilitators were out sourced from the District and the Ministry of Health.
The specific objectives of training were:

- To provide update information on Family Planning contraceptive mix and the under scoring of the importance of the long acting methods’ contribution to the District’s Couple years of protection (CYP);
- To equip participants with knowledge and skills on insertion and removal of family planning implants;
- To equip participants with knowledge and skills on family planning counseling and customer care;
- To train participants in procurement and management of family planning logistics and data management.

An assessment was conducted four months after the training showed that a significant increase in the FP long term methods was registered.

F. Strengthen PPD to support South-South Collaboration activities

i. Prime Minister of Bangladesh unveil the Foundation Stone of PPD Secretariat Building in Dhaka

PPD was founded in 1994 and Bangladesh Government became the host country to establish the secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1997. Till then PPD Secretariat is situated in Dhaka; in a temporary location as PPD has no secretariat building. In such context, Bangladesh Government has provided a land measuring 64 decimals for PPD Secretariat with an initial renovation and furnishing cost of 200 thousand US Dollar. The foundation stone of the 8 storied PPD Secretariat building was unveiled by H. E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Government of Bangladesh on November 12, 2012 in Dhaka. Later, Prime Minister assured that Bangladesh Government will help PPD in every possible way and she proposed to make the Secretariat Building up to 10th floor instead of 8th.
ii. **MoU signed between UNTAID and PPD to promote South-South Partnership**

A memorandum of understanding was signed on November 11, 2012 between UNTAID and PPD, with an aim to work together to promote South-South Partnership. Dr. Denis Broun, Executive Director of UNITAID and Dr. Joe Thomas, Executive Director of PPD signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations in presence of H.E. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Honorable Minister, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; H.E. Prof. AFM Ruhal Haque, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; H.E. Mr. Chen Li, Honorable Vice Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission of China (NPFP), Government of the People’s Republic of China.

The MoU is basically for one year and it may continue depending on the assessment. Whereas the scopes of work included administering a rapid assessment of regulatory barriers to lifesaving commodities in partner countries, identify specific actions for reducing regulatory barriers and improve regulatory efficiency, and develop a detailed work plan to promote south to south partnership in reducing regulatory barriers and improve regulatory efficiency.

iii. **PPD ARO represented at the Women’s Leadership for Family Planning and Reproductive Health Workshop in Nairobi**

Ms. Diana Nambatya, Program Officer at PPD ARO attended a workshop organized by Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and funded by USAID through Health Policy Project (HPP). The workshop aimed at strengthening women’s leadership in FP/RH within Africa.

A total of 24 participants drawn from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda attended the workshop. Four of these countries, namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Uganda correspond to the focus countries for PPD ARO’s work under the HPP project.

The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to examine personal leadership styles, develop advocacy messages and acquire greater understanding of gender and equity issues. In addition, participants examined their respective roles to ensure strong governance of health systems.

The Outcomes of the workshop were:

- Participants with enhanced skills and knowledge using advocacy tools and approaches;
- Participants with increased understanding and appreciation of governance and accountability, gender equity and FP/RH issues;
- Developed country action plans, which will be supported by small grants through HPP;
• Reinforced collaboration and partnership between PPD with CEDPA under HPP; and
• Facilitated information sharing among the participants from the different countries

iv. Regional Director of PPD ARO attended the Population Council Board Meeting in Ethiopia

Dr. Jotham Musinguzi was invited by the President of the Population Council’s office in Ethiopia, as a Trustee of the Population Council to the Council’s office in Ethiopia to conduct official Council business. While in the country, Mr. Musinguzi met with staff members and associates of the Population Council, in Addis Ababa, as well as visited a Population Council project site at Bahir Dar.

The outcomes of the meeting were:
• Strengthened collaboration and partnership with Pop Council; and
• More visibility of PPD work in the region.

v. Advance Family Planning (AFP) Partners Meeting in USA

Three staff from PPD ARO namely Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Mr. Abdelylah Lakssir and Patrick Mugirwa attended Advance Family Planning (AFP) Partners Meeting, which was held in Baltimore, USA in March 5-9, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences, lessons learned, achievements and challenges regarding implementation of AFP interventions by AFP partners as well as share ideas and insights for developing a proposal for the extension of the ending AFP1 project. This new proposed five year project (AFP2) will build on the successful experience of AFP1, initiated in November 2009. Both projects are policy-makers centric and aims at helping developing countries to achieve MDG 5b through: 1) increasing funds at the global and national levels for family planning, 2) removing policy and regulatory barriers to FP and 3) raising awareness of FP impact on socioeconomic development and improving health outcomes.

vi. Workshop on data management and information utilization for poverty elimination in Kenya.

Mr. Patrick Mugirwa, Program Officer at PPD ARO attended a workshop on data management and information utilization for poverty elimination, which was held at Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya from May 15 – 16, 2012. The workshop was organized by Development Initiatives (DIs) and attended by Hewlett Grantees working in the fields of Education and Health from Kenya and Uganda.

The objectives of the workshop were to share organizations’ experiences in accessing, analyzing and using information about resources for poverty reduction (particularly budget and aid information); to understand the challenges and opportunities for organizations in accessing, analyzing and using available information for effective use of resources; to develop a vision and preliminary strategy for the program which will support organizations to develop their capacity to use information as well as document program learning and impact.

By the end of the workshop, the participants were able to appreciate the need for increased use of information about resources for poverty reduction by civil society and other key stakeholders.
During the workshop, participants identified the problems and solutions to the challenges they face in accessing, analyzing and using information and data for poverty elimination (predominantly aid and budget resources). The meeting developed a draft strategy for the program which will support organizations to develop their capacity to use data and information for planning and decision making.