



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization Promoting South-South Cooperation

Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO)

Progress, Challenges and lessons learned, 2015 - 2019.

By

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Summary of ARO's achievement in the last 5 years

- For the last five (5) years, ARO has made significant and tangible contributions to improved RH/FP policy and funding environment in Africa.
 - Within the countries of focus, there is a notable increase by policy makers and key government leaders' knowledge and appreciation of the linkages between RH/FP and development.
 - The funding for RH/FP programmes by national governments and international donors is improving
 - Countries are increasingly providing accountability for RH/FP commitments that they signed onto at international and regional fora (FP2020, NEAPACOH, etc.)
 - Improved South-South cooperation in the areas of RH/FP - countries increasingly sharing good practices and experiences for better RH/FP programming and implementation.



PPD ARO advocacy opportunities during the last 5 years

Continental level:

- Four (4 meetings) of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) held in Uganda (2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)
- NEAPACOH meetings organized to share progress and challenges in implementation of RH/FP commitments; enhance accountability, political leadership and stewardship for RH/FP and develop country-specific action plans that promote RH/FP.
 - One meeting of Africa PCCs organized alongside NEAPACOH meeting of 2018.
- Outputs/ Outcomes
 - Over 29 Parliaments of African countries convened.
 - Capacity building on the interrelationships of RH/FP done for over 600 policy.
 - Kampala Call to Action and Resolutions that make strong recommendations for addressing policy, funding, programmes and institutional barriers to RH/FP

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PPD ARO Advocacy opportunities cont'd.....

Regional level:

- Four (4) Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) meetings ((2 in Kenya (2017, 2019), 1 in Uganda (2017) and 1 in Rwanda (2018)
- Meetings organized to provide platforms for sharing and learning in the context of SSC.
- Outputs/outcomes
 - Sharing and learning between and among the 7 EARHN countries (Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and South Sudan)
 - Countries shared progress in implementation of FP2020 and other FP/RH related commitments, highlighting some good practices for other countries to learn from for possible adoption.
 - E.g the innovative and cost effective practices to increase access to FP services and information in Ethiopia – HEW; Rwanda – MCH &FP integration, PBC and HEW; Ghana – Health Insurance.
 - Good lessons on enhancing the demographic dividend from Uganda and Kenya.

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PPD ARO advocacy opportunities cont'd.....

• Country level

- In-country capacity building targeting policy makers and high level decision makers conducted aimed at increasing their knowledge to better understand and appreciate the linkages between FP/RH and development.
- Meetings were also conducted to provide follow up and the necessary technical backstopping on implementation of the RH/FP related commitments that countries made, including resource mobilization for RH/FP.
- In country meetings were conducted in 7 countries of Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Benin, Tanzania, Malawi and Burkina Faso.
 - All the countries developed SMART action plans for repositioning RH/FP as a crosscutting issue for development.

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Partnerships and relations building

- Hewlett Foundation
- Bill and Melinda Gates and Packard Foundations through AFP Project
- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health - the IFPCs
- DFID through UNFPA Country Office for Uganda
- IPPF ARO and its country affiliates
- APHRC, AFIDEP
- IDRC through APHRC under the IMCHA initiative
- NEAPACOH, EARHN,
- Country level: Population Commissions, UNFPA, USAID, JHPIEGO, DSW, FHI360, MSI, PACE/PSI, etc

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Challenges – Programmes

1. Inadequate resources (funds and staffing) to implement the PPD Strategic Plan;
2. Inadequate political will and accountability by leaders on the implementation of SRHR regional, continental and global commitments;
3. South-south cooperation is hampered by:
 - Inadequate innovative practices documented for sharing
 - Different country contexts and practices
 - Lack of resources to facilitate inter and intra country field exchange programmes
 - Inadequate country capacities, (human, skills and infrastructure)
4. Communication challenges - slow responses and feedback;
5. PPD values and the objectives it embodies are not well understood in some member countries;
6. Lack of resources to support country level activities

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Looking at the past: What have we learned?

1. Facilitating and working with policy makers is an investment worth undertaking;
2. Investing in a critical mass of SRHR/FP champions (identify, build capacity and deploy);
3. Working through strong partnerships and cross-sector collaborations with national, regional and international organisations presents a wide range of opportunities;
4. Advocacy is not necessarily a long-term process but should be backed by coherent short-term action plans that deliver short- term goals and objectives.

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