



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

FOREWORD

The year 2020 has been an exceptional year marked by the global COVID 19 pandemic which hit the world and imposed restrictions on our movements turning our lives into an adapted way commonly called “New Normal”.

The world is still facing unwanted severe challenges due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 crisis. These challenges have induced uncertainty to achieve health related SDGs and Nairobi Commitments by 2030. The global health crisis made an urgent call to action to recover gain from the disruption and reverse hard-won progress in reducing maternal, infant and child deaths, reducing unmet needs for FP and RH services, improving women's health and empower for family choice. This is a crucial moment to pursue innovative policies and programs and look for alternative financial resources to respond to post COVID-19 crisis. South-South cooperation, Global solidarity and partnerships can together make an influential response to this crisis.



Partners in Population and Development (PPD), like all international intergovernmental organizations, has revised its 2020 work plan adopted during the 24th Board Meeting held in Tunis, which launched the first year of the implementation of its new five-year strategic plan 2020 -2024. Several activities have to be canceled and many were postponed. However, the PPD Secretariat, supported by its member countries and UNFPA, managed to achieve concrete actions in terms of documenting Best practices in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Population and Development, organizing National Task Force meeting to review progress for the implementation of Nairobi Summit Commitments and successfully organized its governance meetings.

PPD is proud to announce that the 25th Board Meeting has concluded with the election of the Government of South-Africa, represented by H.E. Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP, Minister for Social Development, as the new Chair of PPD board for the term 2021-2023. Furthermore, the 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development, held virtually, brought Ministers, Senior Government officials, Partners Representatives, experts and Youth activists to review progress on implementation of Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda at the national level and called upon participants to further engage in more coordination, partnership and south-south cooperation in facing Post COVID-19 Crisis.

It is also very rewarding to see our partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Chinese South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) consolidated and achieved target goals as set in respective program of action despite the constraints caused by the pandemic. The new Memorandum of Understanding signed for the first time between PPD and the League of Arab States will strengthen and boost South-South Cooperation programs and activities among the Arab Countries.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude to our Honorable Executive Committee and Board Members for their supreme leadership in managing the COVID 19 pandemic in their respective countries and for their high engagement towards the promotion of South-South Cooperation. Our thanks and appreciation are also expressed to the Partner Country Coordinators for their continued and strong support to the Secretariat and also for their assistance and help in conducting PPD's activities in their countries. I wish also to thank wholeheartedly our partners UNFPA, Chinese SSCAF and UNOSSC for renewing their confidence in PPD Secretariat and worked jointly during 2020 to achieve our common goals.

It is my immense privilege to present the 2020 Annual Report of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) to the Board Members, Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs), our international development partners and all organizations and individuals committed to the promotion of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in Reproductive Health, Population, Development and related issues across the world. I wish to thank my colleagues at the Permanent Secretariat of PPD in Dhaka, Bangladesh also in Africa Regional Office (PPD/ARO) in Kampala, Uganda and in the Chinese Technical Center (CTC) in Taicang, China.

Adnene Ben Haj Aissa

Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Chair: China

H.E. Dr. Li Bin

Hon. Vice Chairperson, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)
Government of the People's Republic of China



Vice-Chair: India

H.E. Mr. Harsh Vardhan

Hon. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the Republic of India



Secretary: South Africa

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP

Hon. Minister for Social Development, and
Government of the Republic of South Africa



Treasurer: Tunisia

Prof. Dr. Habib Ghedira

Hon. President Director General, National Board for Family and Population
Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Tunisia



Host-Country Member

H.E. Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP

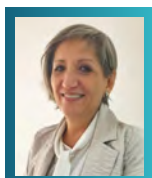
Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Member: Benin

H.E. Professor Benjamin I. B. Hounkpatin

Hon. Minister of Health
Government of the Republic of Benin



Member: Mexico

Dr. Gabriela Rodriguez Ramirez

Hon. The Secretary-General
Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO)
Ministry of Interior, Government of Mexico



Member: Zimbabwe

H.E. Dr. C. Chiwenga

Hon. Vice President
Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe

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ABOUT PPD

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an international Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) grouping 27 developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East representing nearly 60% of the world population. The Member Countries are: **Bangladesh, Benin, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.** The organization was officially launched in conjunction with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt in September 1994. The Permanent Secretariat located in Dhaka, PPD has a Regional Office for Africa in Kampala, Uganda and a Programme Office in Taicang, China. The United Nations General Assembly conferred Permanent Observer Status on PPD as the recognition of establishing South-South Cooperation (SSC) as the most effective and cost-efficient framework of international development cooperation and uplifting the lives of millions of impoverished people of Southern hemisphere.

The idea of forming the Alliance for South-South Collaboration owes its origin to the deliberations held in Bellagio, Italy in October 1993, followed by another meeting in August 1994 in Bali, Indonesia, which concluded that *"a number of developing countries have been remarkably successful in the design and implementation of national population policies and programs. This represents a unique pool of practical experiences which can greatly assist other developing countries in their efforts to design and implement national strategies"*. It was realized in the meeting that sharing of these experiences through South-South Cooperation (SSC) under an Inter-Governmental Framework would immensely benefit the developing countries, which led to further consultation and launching of the Alliance at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt.

VISION

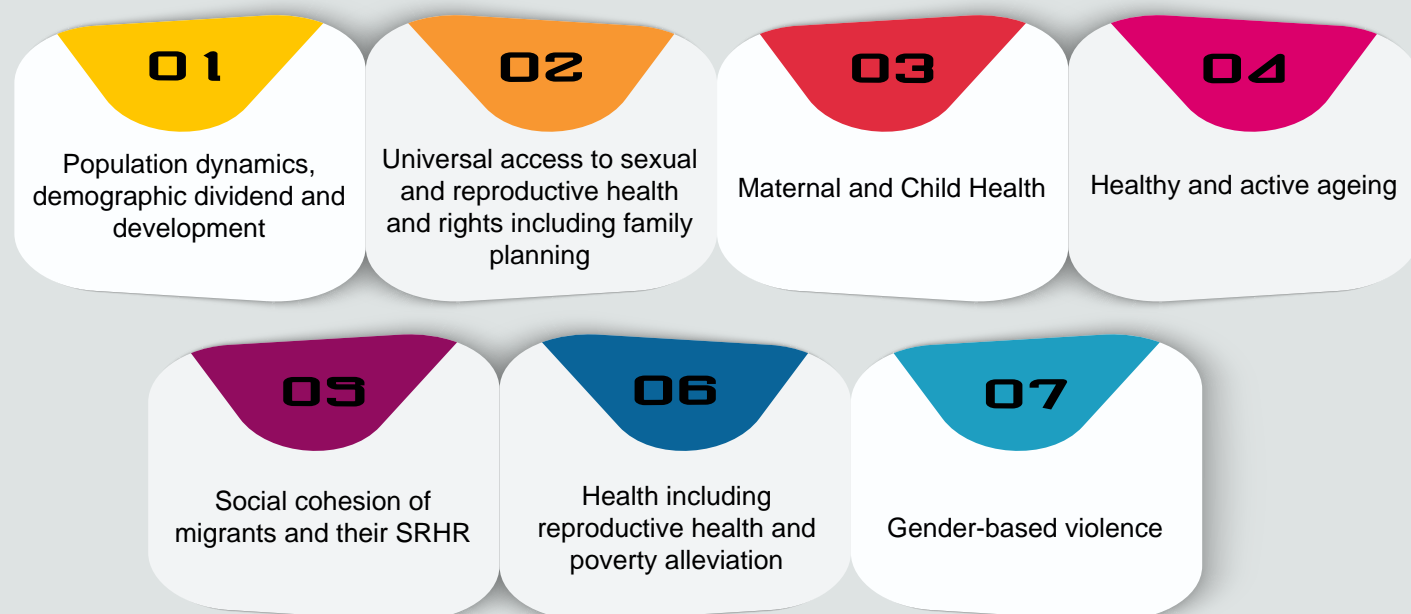
The Vision of PPD is to promote South-South cooperation towards the attainment of the global population and reproductive health agenda for sustainable development.

MISSION

The Mission of PPD is to achieve its vision through sustained advocacy, capacity building, networking, knowledge management/ sharing and transfer of technology in the field of RH, Population and Development within the framework of SSC.

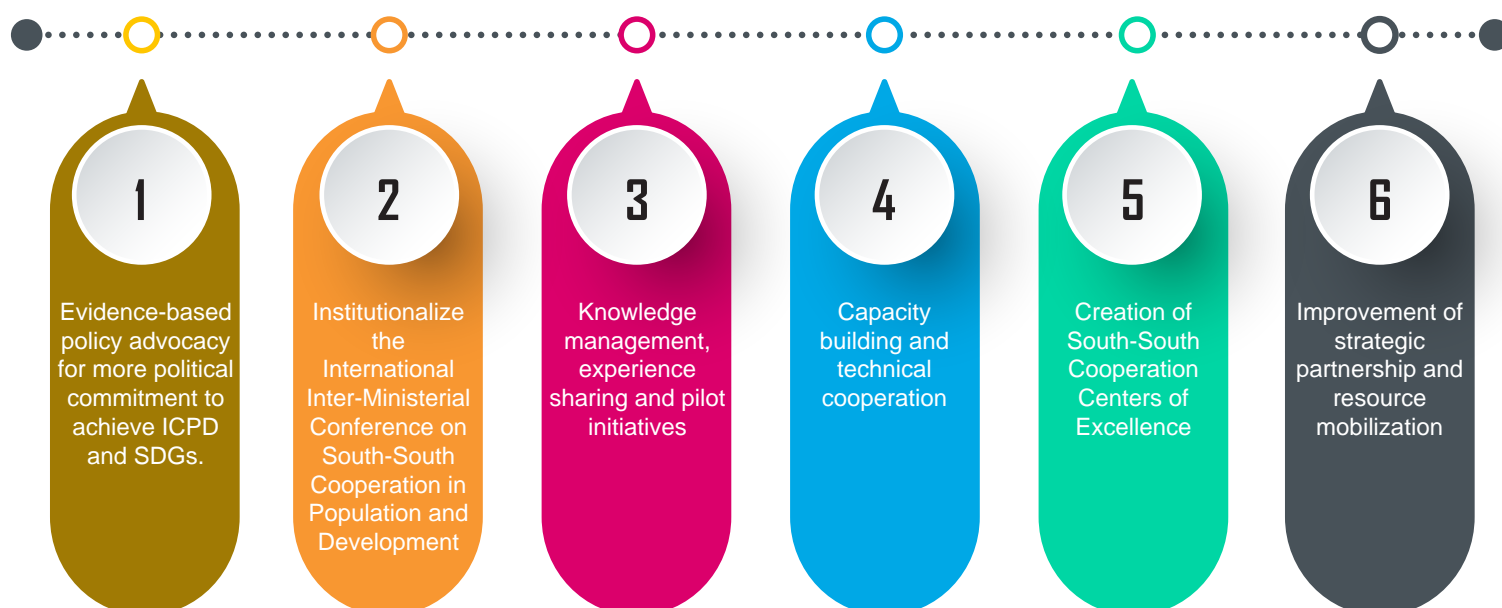
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The process for development of the New Strategic Plan (2020-2024) contains the following strategic priority areas:



STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

Six strategic interventions have been identified to be undertaken for achieving the strategic priorities of the organization envisaged in the new Strategic Plan. The deliverables of these interventions have been identified including the detailed strategies to produce the deliverables. The strategic interventions are as follows:



ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development titled **Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead in Post COVID-19 Crisis**, held virtually on 19 and 27 November and 8 December 2020

Introduction

The 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development titled **Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead in Post COVID-19 Crisis**, held on 19 and 27 November and 8 December 2020. The Conference took place virtually this year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, exactly one year after the Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25, where the Governments and organizations made numerous commitments, among others, to end preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. Partners in Population and Development (PPD), in collaboration with the National Health Commission (NHC) of China and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organized the International Inter-ministerial Conference to discuss and examine progress made particularly by PPD Member Countries and other partners in implementing these commitments and explore best ways to move forward in keeping the promise of ICPD through South-South Cooperation .

The Conference offered an excellent opportunity to policymakers, subject specialists, youth activists and professionals from PPD member countries, partners and stakeholders from across the world to share their views, thoughts, approaches and experiences in integrating Nairobi Commitments into their annual plans and translate them into concrete actions, despite the difficult circumstances caused by COVID-19, which formidably challenged the health systems in all countries and forced reorientation of their programmatic and fiscal priorities.

The 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development concluded with a **Call for Action** exhorting PPD Member States, UN Agencies, partners and stakeholders to fulfill their commitments, advocate increasingly for promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) through sharing of best practices, developing youth-inclusive COVID-19 responses and increase investments on health including reproductive health, family planning and population.

The conference was held virtually in three sessions on three different dates:

- **Session 1:** Implementation of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era which was held on Tuesday, 19 November 2020.
- **Session 2:** Youth Engagement through South-South Cooperation in Advocacy and Innovative Programming which will take place on Friday, 27 November 2020
- **Ministerial Session:** Promoting South-South Cooperation for Attaining Nairobi Commitments and the Agenda 2030 which will take place on Tuesday, 8 December 2020.

The objective of the First Session was to renew the momentum towards the achievement of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in a post-COVID-19 context. The Second Session was aiming at reinvigorating and expanding meaningful youth engagement and leadership through South-South Cooperation to push forward the ICPD agenda on all fronts.

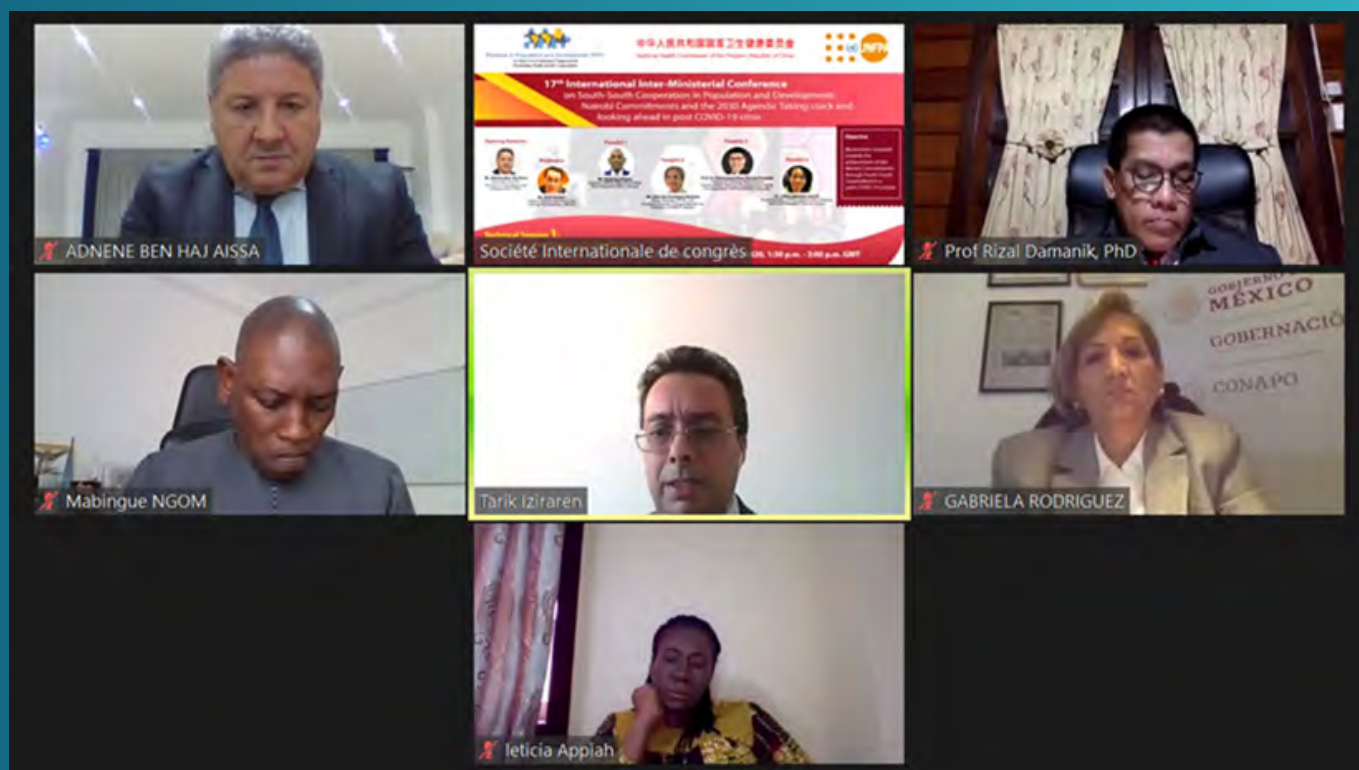
The objective of the Ministerial Session was to advocate and bolster political commitment and investment to address the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic in the achievement of the Three Zeros by 2030 by promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

All the three sessions brought technical experts, political leaders, youth groups, policymakers, national and international partners, collaborating UN agencies, INGOs/NGOs, civil society organizations, media and academia together to deliberate on the innovative and action-driven solutions to address the critical challenges that countries of the South are faced with in working to attain the Three Zeros through South-South Cooperation.

Salient Outcomes from the Conference Deliberations:

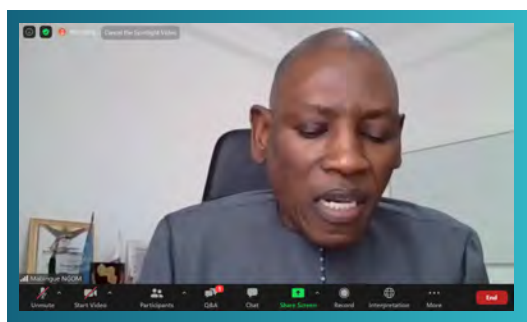
Technical Session 1: Implementation of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era which was held on Tuesday, 19 November 2020

The session one held on 19 November 2020 started with welcome remarks made by Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, PPD who stated in his remarks, that the IIMC will look forward to achieving three major objectives: renewed momentum towards the achievement of the Nairobi Commitments through South-South Cooperation in post-COVID-19 context; reinvigorate and expand meaningful youth engagement and leadership through South-South cooperation to push forward the ICPD agenda on all fronts; advocate and ensure political support and investment to address the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic in the achievement of the Three Zeros by 2030 by promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Mr. Adnene hoped that the participants will gain in-depth understanding of the problems and draw concomitant solutions for incorporation into the national policies and programs.



Speakers make their intervention during the panel discussions in session 1

Following the Welcome Remarks made by Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, PPD, the session was moderated by Mr. Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Partnerships, UNOSSC. **Mr. Tarik Iziraren** sparked the discussion emphasizing that South-South Cooperation received renewed impetus with BAPA+40 held early 2019 in Buenos Aires, is essential now more than ever in the achievement of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the post COVID-19 period. He added that innovative approaches need to be developed, knowledge sharing and capacity building should be expanded to promote South-South Cooperation, and PPD provides the most important platform for that exercise for the member countries and other developing countries.



Dr. Mabingue NGOM representing UNFPA presented the Keynote Presentation in the First Technical Session highlighting the incredible potential of South-South Cooperation in accelerating the implementation of unfinished business of the ICPD, SDGs and Nairobi Commitments leaving no one behind. He added that the lessons learned from South-South Cooperation even accelerated the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic especially concerning behavioral challenges, mobilizing their resources to facilitate contact-tracing, treatment, and other key tasks necessary to roll back the Pandemic in the communities. For UNFPA, South-South

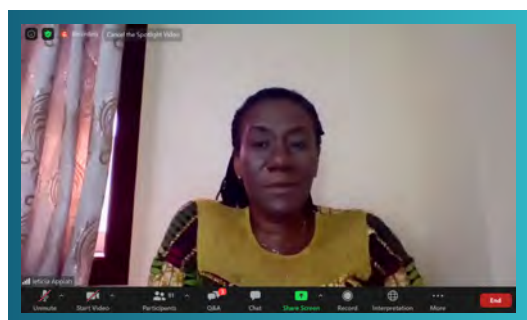
Cooperation will remain a significant mode of engagement and delivery of our promises.

He said that South-South Cooperation plays a critical role in operationalizing the commitments that partners and governments made in Nairobi for transforming the world by ending all maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, gender-based violence, and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. He said that BAPA+40 outcome document recognized the contribution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in sustainable development by ensuring sexual reproductive health and rights, promoting gender equality, and protecting people from Gender Based Violence and harmful practices. South-South Cooperation has had a major positive impact on maintaining systems up and running in providing family planning, sexual and reproductive health services and products, maintaining women's health, empowerment and sustainable development during the Pandemic. The BAPA+40 reaffirmed South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South emphasizing that the modality is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to the North-South cooperation. He added that Governments stressed institutionalizing South-South and triangular partnerships as mechanisms for policy dialogue, technical cooperation, and the sharing of innovative approaches contextualized to local situations. He called upon Southern countries to increase financial resources to scale up such mechanisms, since South-South Cooperation was highlighted as an alternative political and financing tool in developing countries for achieving unfinished ICPD and SDGs 2030 agenda. South-South Cooperation is a recognized approach to complement other forms of partnership and global solidarity.

Dr. Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez, PPD Board Member of Mexico and Secretary-General, National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico in her panel presentation highlighted the commitments of the Government of Mexico to reduce maternal deaths, particularly those caused by unsafe abortions warranting access to comprehensive attention to health services, emergency contraception methods, legal interruption of pregnancy (ILE). She also mentioned about the national strategy to prevent teenage pregnancy focusing on sexual violence against girls, and emphasized on strengthening health services towards universal human rights approach.

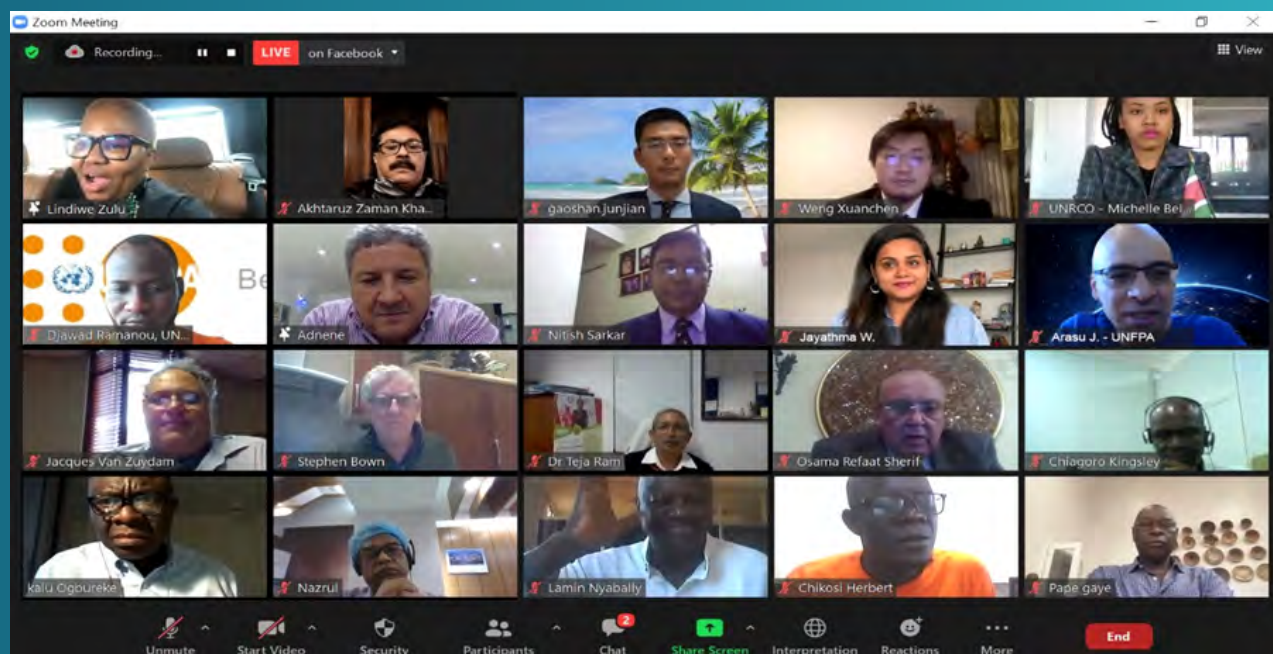


Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rizal Damanik, Deputy for Training, Research and Development, National Population and Family Planning Board (NFPB-BKKBN), Indonesia presented examples of Indonesian experiences on policy level intervention and commitments to achieve Three Zeros committed in Nairobi. He said that Indonesia integrated its family planning and reproductive health services with COVID-19 responses and indicated that Indonesia has updated its established and applicable health protocols, available literature and adjusted policies and strategies to ensure that the delivery of public health services is maintained during the Pandemic. Indonesia's attainment of the ICPD Program of Actions and the 2030 SDGs is a national priority as these agendas have been integrated in the long term national development plans.



Dr. Letitia Adelaide Appiah, PPD Board Member of Ghana and Executive Director of National Population Council (NPC) of Ghana, which functions under the office of the President, mentioned in her panel presentation that the Government of Ghana focused on evidence-based actions driven solutions to address the critical challenges for attaining the Three Zeros committed in Nairobi. The 14% Teenage Pregnancy and very high unmet need for family planning services and products are contemplated to be addressed

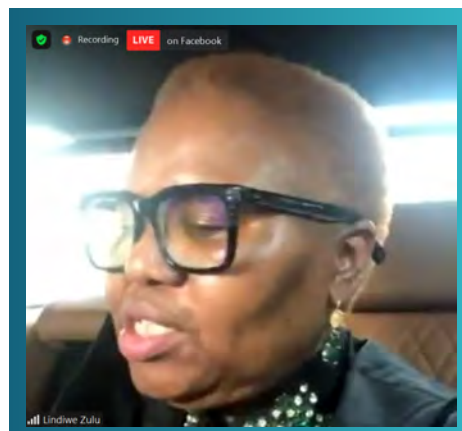
Technical Session 2: Session 2: Youth Engagement through South-South Cooperation in Advocacy and Innovative Programming



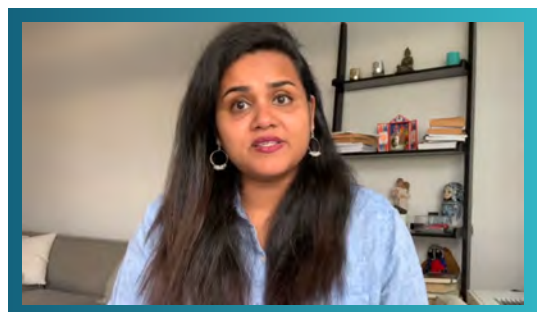
Speakers make their intervention during the panel discussion in session 2

The Technical Session Two focused on youth engagement in responding to COVID-19 to enhance progress towards achieving the Three Zeros and the sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind. The engagement of youth in formal political mechanisms contributes to more effective and sustainable policies, whilst at the same time helping to restore young people's trust in governance mechanisms and processes during challenging times observed by the moderator of the session **Mr. Gaoshan Junjian** from UNFPA, China. Mr. Gaoshan Junjian urged the member countries and other relevant stakeholders to develop COVID-19 response and recovery plans that are youth-inclusive and youth-focused and continue to adopt a youth-centered approach and ensure meaningful participation beyond this crisis.

The Keynote Speaker **H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP**, Hon. South African Minister for Social Development and the then Secretary of PPD Board (Chair-elect) underscored the necessity for young people of developing countries to play veritable and participatory roles in determining the future and progress of their countries. Minister Zulu also stated that the youth constitute the largest and ablest segment of the global population, yet many are still overlooked in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. Any policy or action which seeks to marginalize youth can only retard the development of our nations. We must therefore spare no effort in ensuring effective engagement of the talents of our youth in the process towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.



She renewed the commitments to the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind and other related frameworks, in particular, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Programme of Action for Youth both in words and deeds for the optimal fulfilment of the youths' political, social, cultural, economic and educational aspirations as the future belongs to them, she noted. She added that South Africa is committed to promote South-South Cooperation on adolescent and youth issues, in particular, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, which include abortion rights, including Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and gender non-conforming persons. She emphasized on sharing experiences and ideas of innovative ways of engaging young people more effectively.



The United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Youth **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake** in her video presentation expressed that young people are playing vital and important role in achieving SDGs by 2030 as the youth are changemaker in any society with ripple effect globally. She said that COVID-19 Pandemic posed overwhelming challenges globally in all the sectors and affected the young people very much. She however observed that the young people have built resilience quickly to support addressing COVID-19 challenges including economic, social and health sectors

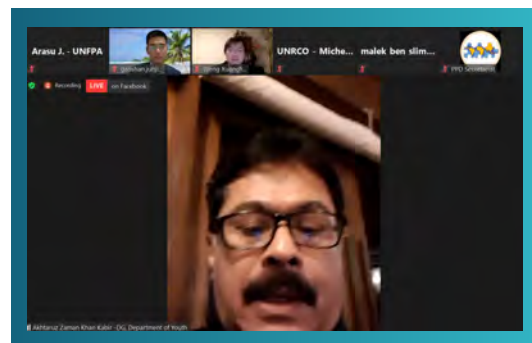
development. Ms. Wickramanayake said that 90% of 1.8 billion young people are living in the developing countries. She underscored that partnerships and South-South Cooperation is key to transform and make positive change towards achieving 2030 SDGs Agenda. She highlighted how young people are playing a very vital role towards achieving SDGs and South-South Cooperation is used as a powerful tool in this youth endeavor. Ms. Wickramanayake concluded her statement underscoring the importance of investing in youth for achieving SDGs by 2030.

The acclaimed Youth Activist of Suriname **Ms. Michele Belfor** in her statement focused on the contribution of the youth towards the achievement of ICPD and the SDGs. She observed that young



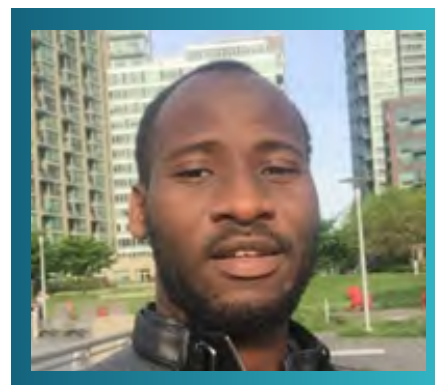
people can play a vital role in addressing sexual and reproducing health issues and therefore expanding meaningful youth engagement is highly important to push forward the ICPD Agendas. She also stressed the importance of young peoples' engagement in decision making and implementation in all fronts.

The Director General of the Youth and Development of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bangladesh **Mr. Aktaruzzaman Khan Kabir** presented Bangladesh experiences on how the government engaged the youth for eliciting their contribution in the nation building. Mr. Kabir mentioned the role of youth in achieving Zero Gender Based Violence and early marriage by promoting South-South Cooperation and shared the vision of mobilizing different departments of the governments to achieve the same goal. He observed that the youth can voluntarily build awareness among the people about the catastrophic effect of the GBV including early marriage and can eradicate these menaces from the society. Mr. Kabir urged the governments of the Southern countries to come forward with realistic approach to involve the youth in the fight against early marriage and Violence Against Women.



The Student and Youth Leader of the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics of China **Mr. Weng Xuanchen** shared his experiences and recommendations for the effective youth engagement and contribution to the society. Mr. Weng mentioned how bravely the Chinese youth worked during the Pandemic and defeated the adversary. He presented practical examples of The China Youth Network (CYN) on how the network has been playing a very influential role in promoting adolescent sexual and reproductive health, which is recognized and supported by the society.

The youth panelist from the UNFPA, Benin **Mr. Ramanou Djawad** made meaningful contribution to the session as youth experts on computer technology. Mr. Ramanou observed that 47% of the youth globally use more than one social media account. He expressed his firm conviction that using such modern technology, the youth can significantly contribute towards achieving the SDGs within the stipulated timeframe by intensifying sexual reproductive health campaign. He observed that optimum utilization of the existing and emerging technology will obviously make positive impact on the youth healthcare.



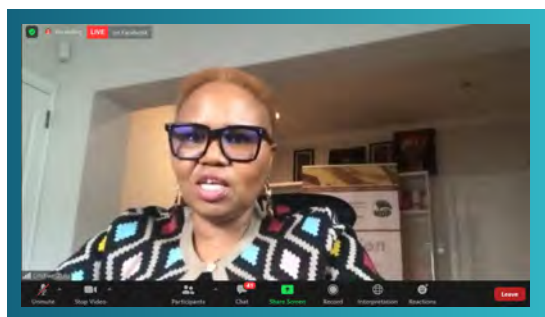
Ministerial Session: Promoting South-South Cooperation for Attaining Nairobi Commitments and the Agenda 2030

The Ministerial Session was held on 8 December 2020, which was a unique ministerial platform of the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSC, organized mainly to reconfirm PPD member countries' commitments and progresses already made in achieving the Nairobi Summit Commitments. The Board Members from the member countries, including the ministers from three BRICS member countries of PPD, attended and reconfirmed Nairobi Commitments and to provide enhanced support to PPD in promoting SSC for attaining ICPD and SDGs by 2030.



High level political leaders and policy makes speak at Ministerial session

PPD Executive Director **Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa**, in his introductory remarks, expressed profound gratitude for the august presence and contributions of the PPD Board Members and the UNFPA Executive Director, which bore gleaming testimony of the unwavering commitment to the longstanding solid partnership between UNFPA and PPD. He observed that PPD and UNFPA partnership commenced right at the inception of PPD during ICPD in 1994. He recalled that UNFPA is one of the founding architects of PPD who fostered the organization at its formative stages immensely contributing to transform PPD into a robust Inter-Governmental Organization to promote effective South-South and Triangular Cooperation for strengthening population and RH/FP policies and programs in the developing countries. Mr. Adnene urged that UNFPA and PPD should continue consolidating the partnership in the Post COVID 19 Era to accelerate achieving the Three Zeros, ICPD Promises and SDG 2030 Agenda within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.



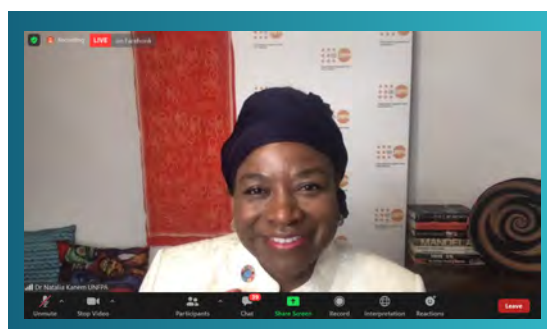
H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP, PPD Board Secretary (Chair-elect) and Hon. South African Minister for Social Development moderated the session and made a statement during the session. As the newly elected Chair of PPD, she urged UNFPA to strengthen partnerships with PPD to expedite the progress in achieving Three Zeros and SDGs 2030 Agenda while combatting COVID-19 Pandemic. Minister Lindiwe Zulu, MP appreciated the leadership and contribution of Dr. Natalia Kanem towards achieving the global population related agenda. She thanked UNFPA for its continued contributions and support to PPD since inception, that is improving

RH/FP and Population through effective and transformational South-South and Triangular Cooperation programs.

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP urged the panelists to emphasize on integrating Nairobi Summit commitments into national development plans to achieve the Three Zeros and the 2030 Agenda; increase investments to address the impact of COVID-19 in the health system, particularly on SRH services; promote SSC for global advocacy,

sharing of knowledge and strengthening capacities towards achieving Three Zeros. Minister Zulu urged Dr Natalia Kanem for ensuring continued collaboration in the coming years to accelerate implementation of the Nairobi Commitments in the Post COVID19 era. As the newly elected Chair of PPD, she reassured strengthening collaboration between UNFPA and PPD for promoting South-South Cooperation in RH & Population issues.

H.E. Dr. Yu Xuejun, Hon. Vice Minister, National Health Commission, Government of China, in his Opening Remarks, reaffirmed his country's continued commitments and support to SSC, Nairobi Summit Commitments and SDGs 2030 Agenda including COVID-19. Hon. Vice Ministers added that Chinese Government implemented series of activities to promote SSC and achieving SDGs. China extended incredible support to strengthen PPD by constructing its office building complex, funding maternal mortality reduction project through SSCAF and flurries of other PPD initiatives. He stated that China extended support to developing countries in controlling the spread of COVID-19 including training of doctors and frontline medical workers and will continue its support in the days to come. He concluded emphasizing that we have to work collectively for promoting SSC, exchanging knowledge, sharing technical expertise in order to address COVID-19 challenges and achieve Three Zeros.

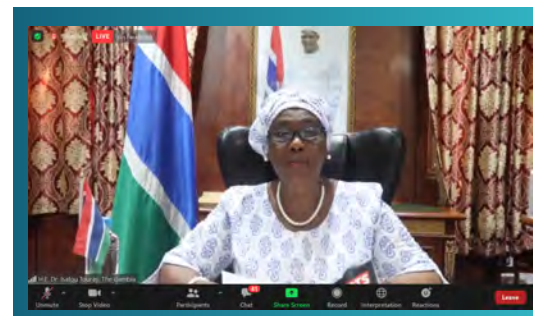


The UN Undersecretary General and UNFPA Executive Director **Dr. Natalia Kanem** delivered the Keynote Address in the Ministerial Session. Dr. Kanem stated that UNFPA as Champion of ICPD increasingly leveraging resources to achieve its Program of Action. She thanked 27 PPD member countries and others working together to support each other to achieve ICPD Goals. She observed that the leadership development from supreme governance to grassroots levels is essential to address SRH issues and to reach the knowledge, services and products to all and optimum utilization of available resources should be ensured

to achieve Three Zeros committed in Nairobi Summit. She observed that COVID 19 is greatest test since establishment of UN which is deepening inequality everywhere. Women, children, older persons, refugee, migrants, young girls and boys are more vulnerable and affected more by COVID-19. She stated that COVID 19 Pandemic also provided an opportunity to learn and address the problems together. UNFPA continued increasingly supporting prevention and control of COVID-19 with a view to ensure that no one is left behind. She urged policymakers and partners to address COVID-19, especially the vulnerable group of population.

Dr. Kanem observed that unity creates strength and South-South Cooperation is the preeminent symbol of unity which UNFPA has been promoting and reconfirmed during BAPA+40. UNFPA also reconfirmed its commitment to SSC in July 2020, when the UN Secretary General Issued the United Nations Systematic Strategies for SSC. UNFPA will soon share the results of the independent evaluation report on SSC with all member states. Informed by the evidence-based results and recommendations of that evaluation, UNFPA will certainly emphasize SSC in its upcoming Strategic Plan 2022-25, so that all of us can utilize it as a potential tool to achieve ICPD and SDGs. Dr. Kanem urged continued partnerships and engagement as we journey together to reach our shared goals collectively to achieve 3 transformative zeros and to build back better.

The Hon. Vice President of Government of the Gambia **H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray** and PPD Board Member of PPD advised continued partnership between UNFPA and PPD to achieve Three Zeros during and post COVID-19. She observed that the IIMC is a



stepping stone for achieving Nairobi Commitments. She stated that the Gambian Government is firmly committed to reduce maternal mortality and achieve Three Zeros for which the Government has taken different initiatives. Vice President Touray observed that there are lots to be done to achieve SDGs by 2030 and South-South Cooperation, as an important element of international development cooperation, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. She urged individual country to mobilize resources from domestic source, bilateral, regional and multilateral financial and development institutions to promote South-South Cooperation. She also urged UNFPA to support countries to promote SSC in order to address Three Zeros.

H.E. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, PPD Vice-Chair and Hon. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India – also the Chair of WHO Executive Board – renewed India's firm commitment for achieving unfinished ICPD Agenda, SDGs and Three Zeros by 2030 by promoting SSC. He observed that, although there is no shortcut to achieve ICPD and SDGs by 2030 including Three Zeros, SSC can be effective method to achieve the goals within stipulated timeframe. He informed that India is committed to access all relevant couples with modern methods through strong advocacy, products and services. India undertaken several initiatives and invested US\$ 200 to achieve SDGs and reduce MMR to 70 by 2030 in its effort to improve SRH services.



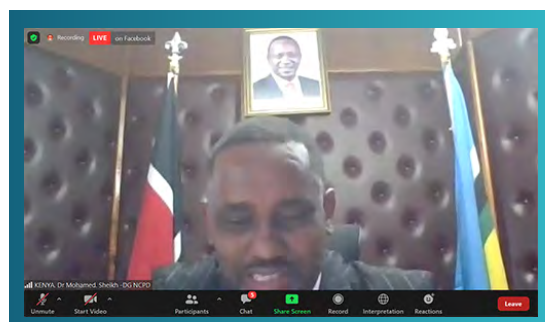
He stated that while COVID-19 posed challenges to all countries in the world, India was one of the first country in taking preemptive measures to prevent the Pandemic. Covid-19 provided an opportunity to strengthen health system and take precautionary measures to prevent any future Pandemic like COVID-19. India attached importance to adequate health financing, taken necessary initiatives to achieve SDGs and enumerated multipronged national initiatives to ensure universal health coverage. Hon. PPD Vice Chair observed that PPD should play a crucial role to ensure health for all and facilitate active engagement of all members on a priority basis to strengthen SSC and PPD. He urged UNFPA to take more initiatives for partnerships and PPD can be a potential partner for global advocacy in strategic changes, particularly reducing maternal mortality, unmet need and violence against women including early marriage.



The PPD Treasurer **Prof. Habib Ghedira**, President, Director-General of the National Board for Family and Population, Ministry of Health, Government of Tunisia stated that the Nairobi Summit Commitments have amply contributed to strengthen the reproductive health and rights for women. Over the last decades, Tunisia achieved considerable success in promoting women's rights, including access to health, education, employment and other economic and development initiatives. The adoption of the Law on prevention of Gender Based Violence constituted the unique achievement among the Arab Countries. Despite the

COVID-19 Pandemic, Tunisia, through the National Board of Family and Population and other health institutions, have ensured RH/FP services to all population including youth and adolescents, one of the commitments made in Nairobi to ensure Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health Coverage. Prof Ghedira concluded by reaffirming the renewed commitment of the Government of Tunisia, founding member of PPD and First Chair of its Board, to the principles of South-South Cooperation and urged UNFPA to continue its technical and financial support to PPD for the achievement of the ICPD agenda.

The Host of Nairobi ICPD@25 Summit and PPD Board Member **Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh**, Director General National Council for



Population and Development (NCPD) of Kenya observed that without partnerships, collaboration and exchange of technical and financial support between countries and donors, Nairobi commitments may not be achieved as the COVID-19 affected the entire health system globally. He attached great importance on leveraging SSC in the context of COVID-19 to address problems related to MMR and SRHS and informed that Kenya integrated SSC as key modality for achieving Nairobi Commitments, as the Kenyan Government is obviously committed to achieve the Three Zeros. He advised development of SSC financing mechanism to ensure provision of new medicines and commodities to save people lives and assured Kenya's unflinching support to SSC for international solidarity, achieving ICPD and SDGs by sharing experiences with countries.

The Mexican Board Member of PPD **Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez**, Secretary-General, National Population Council (CONAPO), Mexico urged all to ensure financial and technical supports towards improving women's empowerments, sexual and reproductive health, adolescents sexual and reproductive health and maternal health in order to attain Nairobi summit commitments.



In her concluding remarks, H.E. Ms. Zulu, MP stressed that the contribution of SSC is important to achieve Nairobi commitments and continue to track the progress of SDG during the COVID-19 crisis and the post COVID-19 era. SSC is very relevant development strategy towards the achievement of all national and international goals including SDGs. UNFPA and PPD need deepening their facilitating role in promoting SSC while implementing Nairobi Commitments.

She underscored the necessity for mobilizing adequate resources for enhancing South-South Cooperation to achieve Three Zeros, and in this context, invited all countries to contribute additionally to PPD. She urged for strengthening of national policies to advance South-South Cooperation, including sharing of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and good practices, and technical cooperation in the field of population and development.

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu urged UNFPA to increasingly support PPD for promoting South-South Cooperation and urged PPD to undertake additional resource mobilization initiatives, attract more financial and in-kind resources in the member countries for achieving Nairobi commitments. She extended appreciation and gratitude to PPD, UNFPA and NHC for excellent organization and hosting of the virtual Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Call for Action and Concluding Remarks.



H.E. Dr. Faisal Sultan, Hon. Federal Minister of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination of Pakistan urged international community including UNFPA for promoting SSC to achieve Nairobi Summit Commitments. Dr. Faisal Sultan stated that the international community assembled in Nairobi in a Global Summit on ICPD at its 25th Anniversary in November 2019, discoursed on achievements and imperatives of ICPD, expressed wide range of commitments and concluded with a set of targets to achieve them including SDGs by 2030. Most important of them were Three Zeros. While the countries were contemplating on

integration of them into their national development agenda, the deadliest Pandemic of the century struck the world and forced the nations to engage their human and material resources to combat the Pandemic. He said that Pakistan initially had no preparedness for this unknown disease, but the multipronged approach with optimum use of science and technology took the country to the rank of one of the most successful countries in tackling the Pandemic.

The leaders and Ministers invariably emphasized the importance of strengthening South-South Cooperation while providing remarkably visionary guidance on the design, development and implementation of exceedingly increasing programs activities in the member countries within the framework of South-South Cooperation. The comprehensive report of the 17th International Inter Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development has been uploaded in the PPD website

PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION THROUGH ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

Partnership and Coalition Building

South Center, Geneva

The Secretariat opened channel of communications with the South Center based in Geneva and the Johns Hopkins University for developing partnerships towards enhanced advocacy and resource mobilization endeavor. The PPD Executive Director and Program Director had a virtual meeting with the South Center joined by their Executive Director and senior management moderated by Dr. Fawzia Rashid, a former PPD Advisor on Advocacy and Resource Mobilization. Dr. Fawzia Rashid is currently the Health Director of Aga Khan Development Network. The PPD Secretariat also had a virtual meeting with the Senior Advisor of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, who also happens to be the former PPD Technical Advisor on program development and recipient of the UN Population Award in 2006. The meeting created opportunity for entering into partnership with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the near future.



Formative Evaluation of UNFPA Approach to South-South and Triangular Cooperation

UNFPA is in the process of developing their long-term strategic plan and intends to reflect South-South and Triangular Cooperation into the document in order to augment achievement of SDG 2030 Agenda. With this aim in view, UNFPA decided to conduct a Formative Evaluation to determine its approaches to South-South and Triangular Cooperation and engaged an independent consulting agency to conduct the evaluation. The main purpose of the evaluation was to take stock of the lessons learned from the successes and challenges experienced from the past implementation of SSTC interventions as critical inputs to form the basis for making decisions for development and implementation of the UNFPA SSTC Strategy. PPD provided important strategic oversights and extensive technical inputs through comprehensive documents and specific responses in a structured questionnaire provided by the Consulting Agency. PPD also had elaborate discussions with and provided further responses to the questions from the principal investigator of the consulting firm on the issue through a Zoom based Webinar. Notably, for the first time, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) envisioned and promoted by PPD is going to be integrated into the UNFPA Strategic Plan. This will create greater opportunity for increased collaboration between these longstanding partner in the future.

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

As a follow-up to the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between PPD Executive Director and UNOSSC Director during Inter-Ministerial Conference in Tunis, PPD Secretariat developed a Concept Note on Capacity Building and Documenting Best Practices and submitted to the UNOSSC for funding. Furthermore, the two Best Practices received from Tunisia and Kenya, were scaled-up and inserted into the UNOSSC Template and uploaded into the UNOSSC electronic platform “**South-South Galaxy**”, leveraging their global access for replication by countries and organizations in their respective settings. The Best Practices was officially inaugurated in conjunction with the 75th Founding Anniversary of UNDP.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Efforts to Secure Accession of Brazil and Malaysia’s Membership to PPD

PPD Executive Director has been utilizing every opportunity of high-level state functions and receptions organized by the Government of Bangladesh and foreign diplomatic missions based in Dhaka for conducting extensive advocacy and networking campaigns in favor of PPD and South-South Cooperation. Additionally, he has specifically targeted to bring Brazil and Malaysia within the fold of PPD as full-fledged members of PPD. He discussed with the Ambassador and High Commissioner of Brazil and Malaysia respectively about PPD Membership on different occasions and the distinguished diplomats expressed interest to explore the matter and agreed to discuss with him in their respective missions, which subsequently led to the following meetings.

Meeting with Malaysian High Commission to Bangladesh in Dhaka

The Executive Director met with the Malaysian High Commissioner at his office in Dhaka on 11 February 2020 and discussed the whole range of issues about PPD and highlighted the importance and benefits of being member of this Inter-Governmental Organization promoting South-South Cooperation. An official letter was handed over to the High Commissioner addressed to the Government of Malaysia inviting the country to join PPD. The High Commissioner demonstrated deep interest in the organization including South-South Cooperation it is promoting and assured the Executive Director that he will work with the Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia to encourage the country to join PPD. Malaysia is an emerging economic powerhouse in Asia and its SRH programs are tremendously developed. The country can significantly contribute to the development and improvement of the SRH programs of other member states and the developing countries in the region and beyond.

Meeting with the Brazilian Ambassador to Bangladesh in Dhaka

The Executive Director met with H.E. Mr. Joao Tabajara de Oliveira Junior, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 9 March 2020. They had very fruitful discussion at a very cordial atmosphere focusing on the mutual collaboration between the Government of Brazil and Partners in Population and Development (PPD). More precisely, the discussion laid emphasis on the Government of Brazil joining PPD as one of the member countries.

Brazil is geographically the largest country in the Latin American region with a vibrant emerging economy and one of the members of the BRICS, while three other BRICS countries (China, India and South Africa) are



already the members of PPD. The Government of Brazil is promoting South-South Cooperation in many countries in the region and beyond covering a number of areas on its own multi-bilateral cooperation mechanism. The PPD Governing Board attached great importance on embracing Brazil as one of the new member countries of PPD. In this backdrop and as a part of his effort to bring Brazil in the PPD fold, the Executive Director met with the Brazilian Ambassador and discussed about potential opportunities for South-South Cooperation between Brazil and PPD Member States. The Executive Director handed over an official letter to the Ambassador inviting Brazil to join PPD as a Member Country. The Brazilian Ambassador also expressed enthusiasm to work with his Government to join PPD as a Member Country.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DOCUMENTING AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES INCLUDING COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Publication and Dissemination of Knowledge Products

Strategic Plan 2020-24

The Secretariat finalized the Five-Year Strategic Plan according to the comments and inputs made by Board Members and PCCs during Tunis meetings and had its language edited by an external professional language editor. The final Strategic Plan document was printed in hard copy and available for distribution as soon as the conducive situation becomes prevalent. The electronic copy of the document has been uploaded into the PPD Website for viewers in the member countries and partners across the world. The French version of the strategic plan is also available for distribution. It should be mentioned that the Five-year [2020-2024] Strategic Plan of PPD was developed using internal technical expertise in the Secretariat for the first time in PPD history.



Publishing the updated book titled “ICPD 25 and SDGs through South-South Cooperation beyond COVID-19”

PPD conducted a survey in the member countries and produced a book titled “**ICPD 25 and SDGs through South-South Cooperation beyond COVID-19**”, which was also uploaded in PPD Website. The principal objective of this report is to present the progress made by PPD member countries in implementing the ICPD PoA, attaining Three Zeros as committed by Nations in the Nairobi ICPD25 Summit and addressing the emerging issues and challenges for the attainment of the SDGs through South-South Cooperation during its 26 years of its existence. The survey revealed significant achievements made by most member countries with concrete and positive impacts in improving their national health and population policies and programmes substantially uplifting the lives of their people. The survey findings presented in three part in the book – Part A) Introduction, Literature Review and Methodology; Part B) Capacity Assessment of National Focal Persons of SSC; and Part C) South-South Cooperation (SSC): Achievement of ICPD and SDGs 2030, Needs and Priority Areas.

Documenting Best Practices



The Salient Features and Lessons Learned from the Best Practices

Through SSC, countries showcase successful experiences and lessons learned as Best Practices that are shared with other countries in PPD to exchange experiences, share lessons learned and technical expertise. All the Best Practices focus on Reproductive Health, Population and Development. The Best Practices highlight country achievements towards the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), which is reinforced by the SDGs. Focus on Reproductive Health pertains mainly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a key partner to PPD, also orchestrating a campaign on achieving Three Zeros: Zero unmet need for family planning information and services; Zero preventable maternal deaths; and Zero Gender-Based Violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

During the Period from January to December 2020, PPD developed 9 (Nine) Best Practices in Bangladesh, China, Egypt, The Gambia, India, Morocco, Nigeria, Thailand and Vietnam.

Maternal Death Free Kapasia (MDFK) model in a sub-district of Bangladesh

The model was developed around destitute pregnant women as the priority. The goal of this model is to achieve the SDG 3.1 and 3.2 in Kapasia. The model will create an environment where the goal can be achieved effectively. The focus of this model is to ensure information availability to pregnant women so that they can access proper services. The model reduces the gap between the beneficiary and service provider and make available the services required. The pre-requisites for replication in other developing countries include that Bangladesh has widespread field activities to address the health issues. In other developing countries, if they want to replicate this model, they should have the field level infrastructure and workforce to introduce the model. The social engagement or community participation needs to be ensured for the purpose of the pregnant women.

Maternal Care Service Respond During COVID-19 Epidemic in China

The initiator of this programme is the National Health Commission (NHC) of the People's Republic of China. The implementing institutions are NHC Field Offices and related Health Facilities in the whole country. The goal

of the project is to effectively protect pregnant women and newborns during the COVID-19 epidemic to ensure mothers and their newborn infants' safety. The achievements of this project include that the management of maternal care services has been established from the township level to the national level. Health facilities and health care staff have been guided and supervised to provide maternal care for pregnant women and their newborn babies. Pregnant women and their newborn babies have access to antenatal care, safe hospital delivery, postpartum care as the same as that before the epidemic outbreak. In addition, the authors indicate that pregnant women with fever, suspected or confirmed infection have been managed and treated. Pre-requisites for replication in other developing countries include a system for fast communication of policies and a comprehensive network of maternal and child health services as well as a well-run community organisations.

Ayamna Ahla Initiative (AAI) in Egypt

Ayamna Ahla Initiative (AAI), is considered as a Best Practice model with respect to Reproductive Health in Egypt. The initiative has three cross-cutting themes including the right to reproductive health (RH) and Youth and Knowledge Utilization. The activities included the focused message seminars either as standalone, as part of campaigns or as part of the convoys. The initiative contributed to a significant protection achieved relative to the total years of protection achieved nationwide during the 12 months' duration of the initiative. This best practice is an excellent example of replicating what works in other countries through SSC. This can be achieved by collaborating with and working through national organizations and partners who are familiar with the preferences and values of the target groups as well as the local conditions.

Kaabilo Baama and Male Action Group (KBMAG) in The Gambia

Kaabilo Baama and Male Action Group (KBMAG) is established as a Best Practice for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in The Gambia. The project started in 2012 and is being implemented in the Kiang West and East Districts respectively, which are two of the four Districts in the Lower Region of the Gambia. The main implementing institution of the practice is RMNCAH of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Women's Bureau of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfares, Department of Community Development and the Village Development Committees in the communities. Where a structured Village Development Committee (VDC) is absent, a village traditional structure is used as an entry point to the village/community. The Goal of the project is to contribute to improvement in the status of women and girls through improved RMNAH services and livelihood in the selected communities. The steps for replication in other countries include identification of a stable and peaceful country; identification of stable districts in a region; with the use of statistics, identify communities with low utilization of RMNCAH services and conducting a Community Profiling in which Baseline data is collected using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Erasmus and Vikpeh-Lartey in Ghana

The Ghana Adolescent Reproductive Health Project (GHARH) is located in the Brong Ahafo Region. The project had the ultimate goal of ensuring that more girls and women were empowered to achieve their full potential. The ultimate goal of the Project was to improve Maternal and Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) outcomes in order to enhance progress towards the achievement of MDG 5. The implementation of the Project in the Brong Ahafo region led to the reduction in teenage pregnancy and abortion rates partly due to the high family planning uptake among adolescents; the effective management of adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues due to the creation of Adolescent Health Corners and School Health Clubs; and improved relations between health service providers and adolescents which has boosted the adolescent's confidence and trust in health care facilities. The planning and design of the GHARH project was based on the adolescent reproductive health situation in the country and ongoing efforts at improving ARH. The most remarkable lesson of the GHARH project is the benefit of multi-sectoral collaborations. The GHARH project did not develop an explicit sustainability plan; however, sustainability was embedded in its design. To ensure sustainability of the project, most of the programmatic components were built on existing structures. In order for the programme to be successful in other developing countries it would require strong institutional collaboration and sustainability

planning.

Introduction and scale-up of Postpartum Intra Uterine Contraceptive Device (PPIUCD) services in India

Family Planning program in India has a rich history of more than seven decades (first country in the world to have a national program for family planning). The program since then has witnessed an evolution from population control to improving maternal and child health outcomes. One of the major reasons behind this inclusion is the considerable influence that contraception has on the maternal and child health outcomes. Periodic interventions, revisions of guidelines and program monitoring are entrenched in quality improvement process of all contraceptive services under National Family Planning Program. Within the decade of introduction as a pilot project PPIUCD has been accepted as a reliable Postpartum option by service providers and community which helped in securing a special place for IUCD as 'Long-acting reversible contraceptive' (LARC) in the contraceptive basket. For replicability it is important to note that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India together with development partners working in the area of family planning made collective efforts to ensure maximum learnings from other country programs and invited delegations from other countries of the region for exploring possibility of scale up of good programmatic interventions.

Introduction of the contraceptive implant in Morocco

Introduction of the contraceptive implant, an innovative initiative to reposition long-term methods in the national family planning program in Morocco. The programme success is mainly explained by the adoption of innovative and pragmatic initiatives that include the provision of FP services through several channels including the primary healthcare centers (PHCs), among others. From the beginning, monitoring and evaluation was put as essential part of the implementation process of the initiative. The FPD ensured that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were in place to ensure appropriate documentation of the initiative. Access to the method has started increasing in line with the extension of the method at the national level. In addition to the two pilot centers, the method is being available in other regions. The model of the pilot initiative has been replicated, so far, in three regions of Morocco. The Moroccan experience in integrating the implant into the service package offered by the NFPP can be transferred and reproduced in other contexts. Political support for the MOH as is the case in Morocco is required for the replication of the experience.

'Safe Abortion Policy and Arranging Unsafe Abortion Prevention Service under Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Scheme in Thailand

Thailand's best practice highlighting the success story on 'Safe Abortion Policy and Arranging Unsafe Abortion Prevention Service under Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Scheme.' Unsafe abortion is a major public health problem in many countries all over the world. The goal of the project is to support broader access to safe abortion among female teenagers and to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies among women of reproductive age with the aim of reducing post-abortion complications and mortality caused by unsafe abortions. In cooperation with the Concept Foundation, the Department of Health conducted a pilot study on medical abortion in the healthcare service system in Thailand in 2012 – 2014. There had been impacts from the cost of treatment for complications of unsafe abortion. The lessons learned include that Recipients' knowledge and attitudes towards safe abortion have a great impact on the service and continuation of the safe abortion services and that Family is also another crucial factor. If a recipient's family is optimistic about safe abortion, the recipient will be pleased to get a safe abortion service. Among plans for the future is expanding service units to cover a total of 77 provinces of Thailand.

Population and Family Planning Programme of Vietnam

Viet Nam is one of the first countries in Asia that launched the population and family planning (PFP) programme. The objective of the programme is to ensure that to ensure small size family with healthy children

to achieve happy and well-off life. The main activities include implementing the birth control movement to reduce fertility and communicating and advocacy program for FP implementation. The declining fertility and mortality rate has made Viet Nam's population enter a dividend period since 2007 with the number of populations at working age is increasing. The success of the PFP program has had ripple effects in reducing poverty program, enhancing the education and health care for the people, improving gender issues as well as women empowerment, promoting migration and urbanization, increasing the GDP per capital in Viet Nam. The successes of the PFP program over the past decades have helped Viet Nam to issued new policies for the phase towards in which improving health population quality, life quality, taking advantage of the dividend period and strongly integrate population dynamic into development program to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The authors suggest that one of the most important success lessons of the PFP programme in Viet Nam is the development of population collaborators and motivators at all villages, hamlets and streets in the whole country.

Compendium of 11 Best Practices

PPD developed 2 Best Practices in 2019 and 9 Best Practices in 2020 totaling 11 Best Practices to be shared and disseminated among the relevant stakeholders. PPD is has developed the compendium of the Best Practices, which is being printed for distribution. The Best Practices are also being printed in booklets for sharing with the intending agencies for replication. The compendium will also be shared electronically and uploaded into the PPD Website. Preparations are underway for sharing the dissemination of the Best Practices virtually through Webinars.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 Pandemic continued its rampage almost in all the nations across the world with its uncanny ability to infect and take invaluable lives of people. It has infringed on the basic freedom restricting movements for sustaining the lives and livelihood of people. While the most aggressive and multi-sectoral response to prevent, contain and control the infections eclipsed all other economic development endeavors, the Reproductive Health and Population Programs continued its services including exchange of knowledge and expertise, capacity building, commodities and information to the people who deserve. In fact, the RH and FP services have been integrated into the programs of COVID 19 Pandemic responses.

The physical assemblies and congregations have been replaced by the Internet based virtual audio-visual meetings, called Webinar, amplifying the scopes for more people from diverse regions to participate and deliberate on issues of paramount importance. Like many other dynamic and transformative organizations, PPD also quickly adopted the technology to continue working seamlessly promoting its mandates.

NHC, UNFPA and PPD Webinar on SRH Programming Response to the COVID-19 Crisis: Sharing of Experiences from China, Wednesday, 1 April 2020

PPD, UNFPA and National Health Commission (NHC) of China organized a very successful Webinar on “SRH Programming Response to the COVID-19 Crisis: Sharing of Experiences from China” on Wednesday, 1 April 2020. The Webinar convened a panel of experts from the National Health Commission (NHC) of China, Chinese Academy of Engineering and Peking University Third Hospital, and Wuhan Children's Hospital. These experts had practical experiences and expertise in delivering SRH and MCH services while treating COVID-19 Patients. Specifically, the webinar focused on assisting pregnant women in coping with COVID 19 following the successful model from China.

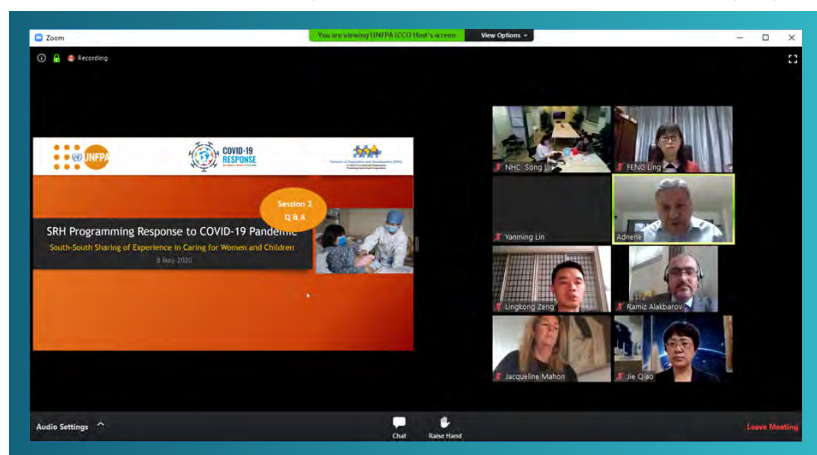
The Webinar mainly targeted the technical staff and policy makers from UNFPA Implementing Partners and PPD member states and offered a platform for sharing best practices and constructive discussions on the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among pregnant women and their best treatment if infected. 427 professionals from across the world connected with and very enthusiastically and actively participated in the Webinar. While the audio-visual presentations of the Webinar were in progress, the scholars and experts from around the world asked flurries of questions, made most constructive comments, observations and suggestions. Due to time limitations, the responses and clarifications to the participant's interventions were deferred to a next Webinar. As indicated above, it was proved that this digital platform is more effective in sharing the successful experiences, technical expertise and best practices to wider audiences than physical meetings that entails travel, accommodation and gathering in one place, particularly at the time of difficulty the world is currently facing. It however has few perceivable shortcomings also.



The Webinar was commenced with brief statements made by Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Director, Policy and Strategy Division of UNFPA HQ and PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa. Following the opening statements, three renowned experts from China, who remained constantly engaged in fighting against COVID-19 in Wuhan, the epicenter of the Pandemic, made comprehensive and in-depth presentations on delivering SRH and MCH Service while treating the COVID-19 infected patients focusing specifically on pregnant women.

Follow-up Session of the Same Webinar: Question and Answer

As announced during the first Session of the Webinar held on 1 April 2020, UNFPA, National Health Commission of China (NHC) and PPD organized a follow-up session on 8 April 2020 to make clarifications on the issues raised and provide the most accurate and pinpointed responses to the questions asked by the participants during the first session, which

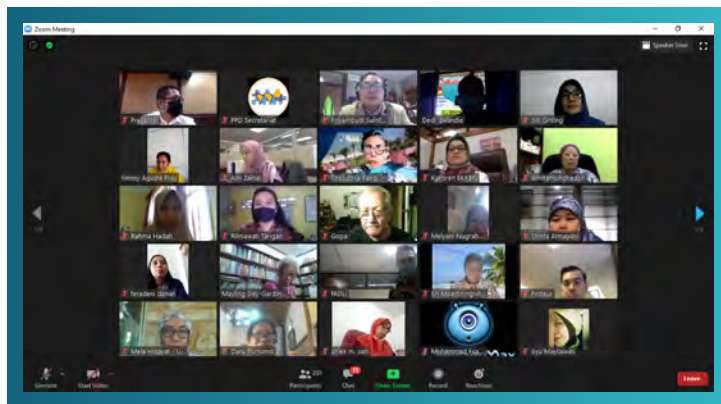


were broadly focused on the health and pediatric management of the infected pregnant mothers and newborn babies. The huge number of questions were broadly divided into 33 categories and segregated into five clusters according their nature and classes, all of which were specifically responded by five experienced physicians of NHC-China. The responses were preceded by brief remarks by Ms. Zhang Yang, DG, International Cooperation of NHC-China, Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive

Director - Management, a.i., UNFPA and Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director of PPD. The participants so assiduously followed the clarifications and responses to the interventions made and questions asked during the first session, they asked supplementary questions and made significant compliments to the responses provided by the Chinese physicians on the nitty-gritties of the treatment of COVID-19 infected Pregnant Women. The exceptional success of the Webinars encouraged the organizers to think of organizing similar programs on different issues in near future.

PPD Collaborated with BKKBN-Indonesia in organizing International Webinar entitled COVID-19: Public health and economic perspectives

PPD Collaborated with BKKBN-Indonesia in organizing an International Webinar entitled “**COVID-19: Public Health and Economic Perspectives**”. BKKBN-Indonesia hosted the Webinar with technical assistance from Johns Hopkins University and Asia Population Association. The issues addressed in the International Webinar were (1) *Indonesia’s Strategy to Sustain Family Planning Program during COVID-19 Outbreak*, (2) *Economic-Demographic Perspectives of COVID-19* and (3) *Family Planning: Challenges and Coping Strategies Across Countries*. The Resource Persons and Discussants were from BKKBN, Asian Population Association, University of Indonesia and Australian National University. With assistance of PPD Secretariat, BKKBN-Indonesia invited all the Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators from PPD Member Countries and Indonesian Board Member and Chairperson of BKKBN mentioned that the Webinar was organized as one of the PPD Member Countries. PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa made the Closing Statement in the Webinar, which was highly applauded by BKKBN and other collaborating organizations. The International Webinar was joined by 684 professionals and experts from all over the world.



Support to Visiting Chinese Medical Team to Bangladesh for assisting on COVID-19



A ten-member Chinese Medical Team constituting experts from different discipline visited Bangladesh for two weeks arriving in Dhaka on 8 June 2020 to assist the Government of Bangladesh on enhanced and coordinated response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. PPD Secretariat, in coordination with the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, provided assistance to the team particularly on the Bangladesh health system review, national guidelines on clinical management of Covid-19, national technical advisory

committee on Covid-19 etc. The PPD Secretariat also attended and provided inputs to the meeting the team had with the Government, UN Agencies, International Organizations and Private Medical College Associations etc.

Scholarship Program

In 2020, PPD Secretariat facilitated three long-term scholarships offered by the Government of Egypt, India and South Africa. The total number of the beneficiaries of these scholarships are 22 from Bangladesh, China, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. But due to the persistence and transmutations of COVID19 Pandemic, the starting date of the scholarship has not yet been finalized and will be determined later depending on how the COVID-19 transpires.

The Cairo Demographic Center of the Government of Egypt offered 7 (seven) one-year diploma in “*Population and Sustainable Development*”. PPD has received 6 (six) nominations from Bangladesh, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. The objective of the diploma is to develop students’ skills in applying multi-disciplinary analytic approaches to population and its relationship to sustainable development. The

course will be held online and the starting date is to be determined.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India offered 10 (ten) one-year scholarship in “*Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM)*” to be imparted in its National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NHFV). PPD has received ten (10) nominations from Bangladesh, The Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. The objectives of the course are to enhance the capacity of the public health professionals to improve the health status of the country through implementation of effective health programs and public health management.

The Government of South Africa offered 5 (five) one-year scholarship in “*Post Graduate Diploma in Population and Policy Analysis (PGDPPA)*”. The Diploma will be imparted in the Northwest University of South Africa in its Mafikeng Campus. PPD has received 5 nominations from Bangladesh, China and The Gambia. The Objectives of the course to Build Capacity in population & policy analysis to improve evidence-based policies and programs for sustainable human development and to provide an advanced understanding and practical skills for interlinking research, policy, and programs for middle and high-level managers with planning responsibilities.

Regular Update of Information in the Dedicated COVID-19 Section of PPD Website



PPD Secretariat created a dedicated webpage in the PPD Corporate Website on COVID-19 Pandemic. The Secretariat uploaded the documents reflecting the most successful experiences and expertise of the Government of China in the prevention, containment and control of the Coronavirus Pandemic so that other member countries can learn and replicate the experiences, strategies and measures in their response to the Pandemic. In addition to those invaluable documents, PPD Secretariat also collected and weekly updated the COVID-19 situations in the member countries, which has been the continued process during the period under reporting.

PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Maternal Mortality Reduction under Financial Assistance from the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) of the Government of China

Implementation of the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) Project

PPD has been implementing a maternal mortality reduction project called “**Providing Comprehensive, Safe and Appropriate Intervention to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage for Reducing Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh**” under the financial assistance of the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) of the Government of China. PPD completed signing bilateral MOU with the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF), National Research Institute in Family Planning (NRIFP-project partner institution in China) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) of Bangladesh, involving the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) as the functional supporter on the project implementation. PPD completed Baseline Data Collection, constituting expert groups consisting of experts from Bangladesh and China for providing technical advice on and monitor project implementation. PPD virtually organized formal Project Launching Meeting with participation of two Secretaries and senior officials of the Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Family Planning (DGHS), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), field officials of DGFP, Obstetric and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) Member Country Embassies in Dhaka, UNFPA, WHO, National Health Commission (NHC) – NRIFP – SSCAF of China, Xinhua News Agency and China Media Group with the Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Zahid Maleque as the Chief Guest. The Brochures on the usage of the medicines and postnatal kits and the Training Modules developed by the Chinese Experts for the core project implementing officials have been translated into English and Bangla. Few more major activities completed after end of 2020 will be reported in the 2021 Annual Report. Having been satisfied with the progress of project implementation despite COVID 19 induced limitations, the SSCAF has already assured approval of the next phase of the project to be implemented in Ghana, West Africa.

Completion of all these activities, particularly the Official Inaugural Ceremony virtually, entailed enormous amount administrative, logistic and technical activities, which were seamlessly done despite limitations posed by COVID-19.



Launching Ceremony of the SSCAF Project on Providing Comprehensive, Safe and Appropriate Intervention to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage for Reducing Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh

Strengthening the National Level Coordination for Institutionalization of South-South Cooperation Towards Accelerated Implementation of ICPD POA, SDGs and Three Zeros in PPD Member Countries through Organization of National Task Force (NTF) Meetings

Under the leadership of the Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs), the institutionalization and strengthening of South-South Cooperation in the member countries is a continued process to maintain momentum for accelerated implementation of ICPD POA and SDGs. Furthermore, the member countries renewed passionate and ambitious commitments to accelerate implementation of unfinished ICPD Agenda and SDGs during ICPD25 Nairobi Summit. Most importantly, PPD Member Countries, together with other countries, spontaneously and unanimously agreed to achieve Three Zeros by 2030; Zero Family Planning, Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths and Zero Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices. The member countries fulfilled their commitments implementing the programs including their integration with COVID-19 Responses.

As an effort to monitor the progress of implementing the programs, PPD with financial support of UNFPA, successfully organized National Task Force Meetings on South-South Cooperation in 10 member countries, such as, Bangladesh, Kenya, Thailand, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Benin, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa. The Reports of the NTF Meetings received from the respective countries demonstrate very encouraging progress in implementing the related programs despite continued rampage of COVID-19 Pandemic. A compendium of the reports has been developed and is being printed for widespread dissemination for continuing the momentum of the relevant program implementation.



Message of Solidarity from PPD Executive Director to the Member States on their Suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic



The outbreak of the COVID-19 beginning 2020 and repaid transmission to all the member countries with the greatest intensity and ferocity profoundly saddened the Executive Director and Staff Members of the PPD Secretariat. The health system of the countries was outstretched, productive economic activities came to a standstill, lives and livelihood in the countries were challenged with the sudden outbreak and very rapid transmission of the Pandemic. Even the global economy started showing signs of imminent recession. But all the countries encountered the greatest adversary of the human history very

aggressively with the strongest resilience and steadfastness and compelled the Pandemic to retreat, albeit with considerable sacrifices of lives and resources. During the height of the Coronavirus infection, the Executive Director expressed heartfelt sympathy and solidarity to the member countries through the following audio-visual message:



Hon. Board Members and Dear Partner Country Coordinators,

Please accept our heartfelt compliments from the Secretariat of Partners in Population and Developments (PPD)!

The people of PPD member countries and other nations across world are undergoing the fastest spreading, the deadliest and unpredictable Pandemic that our generation has never recorded. People of all ages, gender, race and classes are getting exponentially infected and succumbed to the infection every moment. The Pandemic is not sparing the wealthiest and the mightiest nations stretching their resources and capacities to the limit. While no treatment or vaccination is available or none in sight in foreseeable future, only the prevention methods through personal hygiene, social distancing, civic courteousness and allied cautionary measures are only proving to be the effective instrument to a great extent, which is the core principle of the Public Health.

At this most difficult and tragic moment of our history, the PPD Chair, your Executive Director and Staff Members at the Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, at the African Regional Office in Kampala and at the China Training Center in Taicang, express heartfelt solidarity and felicitations to the Government and People of our Member Countries and of the Global South. Our heartfelt condolences to the ones lost the lives of their loved ones from the Pandemic and our profound sympathies to the infected brothers and sisters struggling to stay alive. Most respectfully we salute to the frontline health work force working round the clock to save lives of the infected people, while they are also getting infected and embracing death. We are profoundly saddened and overwhelmed with the unprecedented suffering our brothers and sisters in the member countries are enduring. We stand by the Governments and People of our member countries with spirit, thoughts and prayers. We wish that this menace vanish from the surface of our planet and life returns to normalcy.

As China, the country chairing PPD, has already achieved comprehensive and exemplary success in fighting against and controlling the Pandemic, we are committed to share the successful experiences of China with other member countries enabling them combatting the Pandemic with successful experiences and best practices. In this backdrop, we have opened a Special Page in our official website and uploading the successful experiences, protocols and handbook collected from China to share with the member countries with the spirit of facilitating the South-South Cooperation at the hour of dire necessity.

We also commit to work with UNFPA, UNOSSC and other partners to ensure continued implementation of the Sexual and reproductive health and Mother and Child Health programs while the entire health infrastructure is engaged in responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition to newly approved 5-years strategy of PPD, we do not forget the global commitments made in Nairobi Summit to meet three zeros through effective and transformational South-South and Triangular Cooperation and we are pledge bound to take them forward. We are proud of and honored with the continued guidance and supports of our Hon. Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators.

With our Warmest regards.

Adnene Ben Haj Aissa
Executive Director, PPD

Excerpts from the Statement made by the PPD Board Secretary Ms. Lindiwe Zulu MP, Hon. South African Minister of Social Development (DSD) at the First Session of High-Level Commission (HLC) on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, held virtually on 17 September 2020

UNFPA constituted a global High-Level Commission (HLC) for accelerated implementation of 1,250 commitments made voluntarily by the Governments, international community members, civil-society organizations and other related stakeholders at Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 aimed at accelerating the promise of the ICPD. The then PPD Board Secretary Ms. Lindiwe Zulu MP, Hon. South African Minister of Social Development (DSD), as one of the leading members of the Commission representing PPD Board, made a visionary Statement at the First Session of High-Level Commission (HLC) on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, held virtually on 17 September 2020.

The Hon. PPD Board Secretary commenced her brief statement by thanking Dr. Natalia Kanem for leading the process and H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania, Co-Chair of the High-Level Commission (HLC).

She committed the Government of South Africa through her Ministry as well as the Department of Social Development (DSD) to make the utmost contribution to the activities of the Commission and strongly emphasized that South Africa would appreciate if the Commission make deeper focus for promoting South-South Cooperation (SSC) for accelerated implementation of Nairobi Commitments, specially empowerment of women, gender equity and equality, sexual and reproductive health, youth and demographic dividend. She added that developing countries can learn a lot from each other as they face similar challenges and reiterated that the mechanism of South-South Cooperation (SSC) as led by PPD should be strengthened to accelerate achievement of Nairobi Commitments.



She added that the South African President, as the current Chair of African Union, is promoting the demographic dividend as the youths are the potential forces for changes in the future.

She concluded her statement by saying that the ongoing Pandemic proved the fragility of our systems indicating inadequate health systems, structural inequalities and environmental degradation, warranting to address them with greater sense of urgency.

STRENGTHENING NETWORK AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Following the signing of the MoU between PPD and UNOSSC in September 2019, several collaborative activities were implemented in 2020 in exchange of knowledge, experience, expertise, documentation and dissemination of Best Practices in the areas of reproductive health, population and development through South-South Cooperation frameworks.

The UNOSSC Galaxy Published 2 PPD Best Practices Documented in Kenya and Tunisia

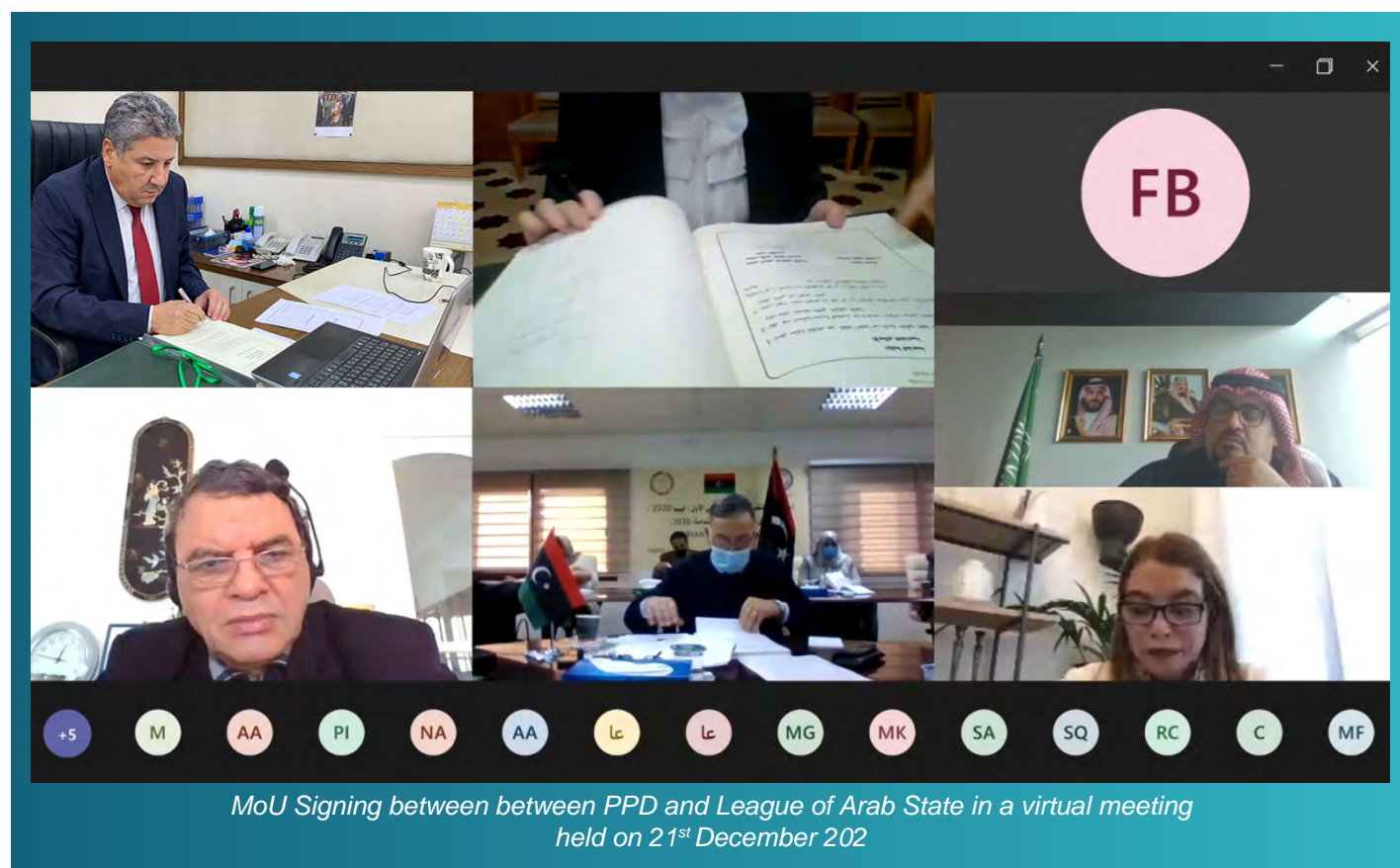
The Best Practices documented on the ENGAGE program implemented by The National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) of Kenya with support from Population Reference Bureau (PRB) under the umbrella of the Policy Advocacy and Communication Enhanced for Population and Reproductive Health (PACE) Project. The ENGAGE program presentation toolkit offers the best available knowledge and information dissemination

platform that can act as catalyst to trigger and stimulate policy dialogues to promote and advocate for PHE programs and policies in Kenya.

The Best Practice on “Mobile Services Strategy for Family Planning and Maternal Health”, that revolutionized Reproductive Health Program in Tunisia, was documented and was also published in the UNOSSC Galaxy Platform. The overall objective of the program is stabilization of the population growth and maintain it in practical proportion. Right at the outset, the education program was preceded or accompanied with the modules of FP services. Orientation of the staff members were either integrated with the mobile teams or conducted through independent units that are specifically dedicated to education. The lessons learned include the management of the mobile units carried out in conformity with clear and written organizational rules and steps to ensure more cost-effectiveness and setting up a coherent team of service providers.

Partnership with the League of Arab States

PPD and the League of Arab States signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the first time on the occasion of the 2nd Meeting of the Arab Population Council held virtually on 21 December 2020.



Areas of collaboration envisaged in the MoU are capacity building, exchange of information, conducting joint studies and publication of reports; development of joint projects, resource mobilization and implementation; inviting each other as observer to attend meetings that address issues of mutual interest; constitute a joint high-level committee to review and learn from each other's programs etc. Both the organizations are expected to be immensely benefitted from implementation of the terms of the MOU.

STRENGTHENING PPD MANAGEMENT

The corporate management has been turning out to be faster, simpler and flawless with conceptual transformations and digitalization of activities. Keeping pace with the global changes, PPD has been fast-tracking its corporate management through a number of innovative initiatives such as reorganizing and reclassifying its archives, streamlining its central registry, bringing its entire fixed-assets under Barcode System, securing its infrastructural and peripheral assets through Third-Party Insurance, encouraging and strengthening staff capacity through training and incentives. For instance, based on Annual Performance Evaluation of 2020, PPD awarded Best Performance Award to one Professional Staff and one Administrative Support Staff. This has enhanced motivation and inculcated high spirit among the staff members to perform with more dedication. These efforts have significantly improved PPD Management System last year and will continue to do so in the future towards establishment of seamless administrative, financial and program management of the organization.

REINFORCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF PPD SECRETARIAT

One of the principal mandates of PPD Secretariat is to function as the central point for networking and clearinghouse of information for PPD member countries, collaborating partners, other stakeholders and beneficiaries worldwide. Right from commencing institutional operation of its Secretariat in Dhaka, PPD has always been ensuring maximum utilization of Information Technology with State-of-the-Art hardware, most up-to-date software and eminently qualified IT Expert in the instantaneous dissemination of information and other knowledge resources generated by the Governance, Management, Program, Communication, other Secretariat Departments and the member countries, mainly through its world class Website [www.partners-popdev.org] among other channels.

IT Activities of the Secretariat

The IT Department is the backbone of the Secretariat mandate of functioning as the Clearinghouse of Information for the Member Countries and other partners and stakeholders. After the Coronavirus outbreak, the IT Department created a new webpage in the PPD Secretariat Corporate Website on the COVID-19 and frequently uploaded the documents on the most successful strategies, technologies, experiences and expertise that the Government of China acquired in the containment, control, treatment and prevention of further treatment of COVID-19 infections in China. The Secretariat also circulated the relevant Web-Links to the member countries for accessing the documents and utilizing the knowledge contained in the documents in their respective countries' fight against the Pandemic.

Bangladesh experienced huge infections and more than half of which is in Dhaka and adjacent suburban areas forcing the organizations including PPD Secretariat to work from home using internet technologies facilitated by the IT Department. PPD Secretariat introduced weekly staff meeting in the Secretariat which was continued uninterrupted while working from home using the Zoom Link facilitated and hosted by the IT Department.

Concept note on “Bi-Lingual Presentation of PPD Website”:

Currently the contents of the website are available only in English language, which deprives Francophone Member Countries to benefit from the repository of the resources available in the PPD Website. A concept note has been developed to make all the PPD resources and conduct all PPD events in French Language simultaneously with English Language, which is the legal demand of the Francophone member countries and an essential requirement of the PPD Secretariat.

Special Page on COVID-19 on PPD Website:

China has successfully combatted the COVID-19 Pandemic in their country. PPD developed a special page in the PPD Website on COVID-19 to share Chinese success stories, guidelines and protocols in the prevention,

containment, control and eradication of the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic. A handbook on COVID-19 Prevention and treatment has also been uploaded on the page. This page is linked with a small banner titled "COVID-19: Sharing Best Practices of China" in the left top corner of the Home page.

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/covid-19/>

Special Page on COVID-19 Situation in PPD Member Countries in PPD Website:

Another webpage was developed to update and share the ongoing COVID-19 situation in PPD Member Countries. This page is linked with a banner in the top right side of the PPD website to be easily identified. This page made a graphical demonstration of the ongoing COVID-19 situation in the Member Countries, which has been updated on weekly basis. Resources obtained from the Member Countries regarding latest COVID-19 situation has also been uploaded on this page.

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/covid-19-situation-in-ppd-member-countries/>

Online PPD Staff Meeting:

Weekly staff meeting has been instituted as one of the regular activities of PPD Secretariat to monitor the progress of the ongoing activities towards implementation of the annual work plan and carryout other related activities. The meeting used to be held in-person at the office on every Tuesday, where all the staff members used to report the progress of activities assigned to them. The COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions compelled the staff members to work from home. Consequently, the weekly staff meetings have been organized online maintaining the same schedule using the Zoom Links.

PPD Virtual Governance Meeting: PPD organizes Board Meeting, Executive Committee Meeting and Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meeting annually and a biannual Executive Committee Meeting where all the Board Members, Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) and country delegates attend in person. Due to COVID-19 induced travel restrictions including physical assemblies and gatherings, the Governance events this year were convened virtually using Zoom Link connections. The simultaneous interpretations of the proceedings in English, French, Chinese and Spanish were also arranged online during the same Zoom Meetings. Moreover, for the first time, Certificates of Attendance were awarded to the participants of the PCC Meeting acknowledging their contribution to PPD.

Virtual 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development:

PPD organizes an International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development every year in conjunction with the annual Governance Meetings. The International Inter-Ministerial Conference in 2020 was organized virtually titled "Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead to Post-COVID-19 Crisis". The Conference was jointly sponsored by Partners in Population and Development (PPD), United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) and National Health Commission (NHC) of China in three uniquely different sessions on three different dates, 19 November, 17 November and 8 December 2020. A dedicated webpage was developed on the Conference to enable online registration and to upload all the necessary information. Immediately after conclusion of the Conference, all the audio-visual presentations, speeches, moderations and other interventions made by the Chair, Keynote Speakers, Panelists and Participants were uploaded into the website:

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/17iimc2020/>



ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

PPD Asset Management System

A Manual Asset Management System existed in PPD Secretariat, which has never been exhaustive and did not help the management to take informed decisions for their timely disposal and replacement with new procurement system. This has also been an audit observation consecutively for several years without being addressed. Timely disposal and procurement of assets also reflect on the staff performance. PPD Executive Director instituted digitalized asset management introducing Barcode System reflecting procurement, maintenance, depreciation, decommissioning, disposal and procurement when necessary. This will also improve the performance and reduce the operational costs.

Constitution of the Senior Management, Procurement and Disciplinary Committees

As enshrined in the Management Policy Manuals and advised by the Governing Board, PPD Secretariat constituted Senior Management, Procurement and Disciplinary Committees comprising heads of different units of the Secretariat under the chairmanship of the Executive Director. These committees will work, oversee and reflect on respective activities according to their Terms of Reference (TOR) and submit recommendations in consensus to the Executive Director for approval and subsequent implementations.

Formalization of PPD Secretariat Tax Exemption by the Government of Bangladesh

According to the provision of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Bangladesh and PPD Governing Board and in line with the Diplomatic Status Government of Bangladesh accorded to PPD, the PPD Secretariat is entitled exemption from payment of all kinds of taxes to the Government of Bangladesh. Accordingly, the PPD Secretariat has not been paying taxes on any financial transactions requiring payment of taxes. But this has never been formalized obtaining Tax Exemption Certificate or including PPD as an international Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) in the Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) of the concerned regulatory authority, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Bangladesh, which has been consecutive audit observations last several years. The Executive Director has taken necessary initiative and processed obtaining the Tax Exemption Certificate / inclusion of PPD in the SRO through PPD Counterpart Ministry, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh. This is usually a time-consuming process and the work is progressing with active assistance of the Hon. Board Member and Partner Country Coordinator (PCC) of Bangladesh.

Streamlining Staff Health Insurance Coverage

According to PPD Personnel Policies, the Secretariat Staff Members avails of contributory health coverage in line with UN and International Organizations through a group insurance policy established with CIGNA – a Brussels based international Insurance Company – maintenance of which requires approval from Bangladesh Insurance Regulatory Authority (BIRA) due to the involvement of an international entity. In a similar effort, the staff health insurance system was streamlined obtaining approval from the competent authority (BIRA) as mentioned above, which was long overdue since inception.

Improving Secretariat Telecommunication

In order to improve Secretariat telecommunication, within the Host Country, with the Member Countries and International Development Partners, PPD Secretariat has been converting its telephones into the most advanced and easily accessible eight-digit digital telephone lines. Three out of Eight connections have already been converted and the rest Five connections will be completed during the next fiscal year.

Enhancing Security Compliance

Since the most advanced and state-of-the-art fire prevention and extinguishing system installed initially in the Secretariat Office Building, an additional security feature such as Emergency Fire Exit was primarily considered non-essential. However, in order to ensure comprehensive security compliance, the Secretariat has undertaken the installation of Emergency Fire Exit, which is in the rapid progress and be completed in the next fiscal year.

Designation of Approach to PPD Secretariat as “PPD South-South Avenue”

PPD Secretariat through its Focal Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been working with the City Corporation Authority to designate the approach road to the Secretariat Office Building Complex as “PPD South- South Avenue”, which will be a continued advocacy and enhance pride and glory of the organization. With the gracious assistance of the Hon. Bangladesh Board Member and Partner Country Coordinator (PCC), this initiative is expected to achieve success in 2021.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AT PPD SECRETARIAT

Despite the outbreak of the deadliest Coronavirus Pandemic ever experienced in the human history, which struck Bangladesh in March 2020, PPD Secretariat functioned on a regular basis working from home online using the internet technology and successfully convened all the planned internal and international activities, meetings and conferences virtually using the Zoom Link Connections. The COVID-19 induced lockdowns and restrictions only changed the mode of activities, but could not slow down the activities, rather enabled the officials to work beyond the office hours, enhancing the overall organizational performances. The Financial Department worked in concert with other departments and conducted its functions in strict compliance with the Financial Policies and Regulations. Moreover, the Finance Department had to attend the office and visit the bank to generate relevant financial documents and make necessary financial transactions. During the toughest fiscal year of PPD history, PPD received almost 93% Member Country Contribution (For FY2020 & Arrear) against the approved budget of Membership Contributions, heartfelt gratitude to the Board Members and PCCs. PPD also received outstanding contribution from Bangladesh & partially from Nigeria committed earlier towards building Construction. During the year 2020, PPD managed to recover almost all the deficiency against building construction, which is a great achievement & reflects astute leadership to the efficient fund management. PPD also ensured all other operational and program related payments locally and internationally in a timely fashion during 2020. Despite COVID-19 Pandemic, the steadily improving pace of resource mobilization and financial management continued momentum in 2020.

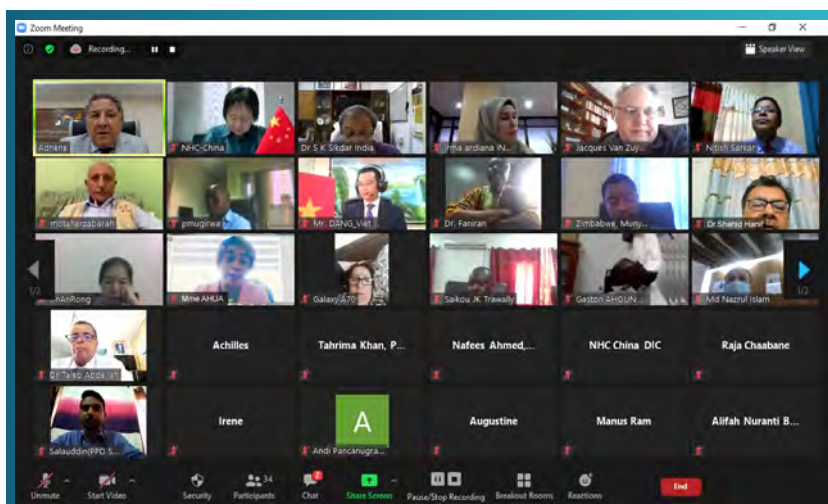
GOVERNANCE AND POLICY ORIENTATIONS

Partners Country Coordinators (PCC) Meeting, 9 July 2020

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) organized a Virtual Consultative Meeting of the Partners Country Coordinators (PCCs) on Thursday, 9 July 2020 from 16:00 to 18:00 hours Bangladesh time using Zoom Link connection. The PCCs of 22 Member Countries including some other officials of their respective offices joined the Virtual PCC Consultative Meeting and had a very lively, interactive and constructive discussions. The Zoom Meeting, moderated by PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, was organized very successfully. The purpose of the meeting was to report to the PCCs and elicit their guidance and advice on implementation of the past, ongoing and forthcoming activities of PPD in view of the restrictions posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, the discussion also concentrated especially on the virtual organization of the forthcoming 25th PPD Board Meeting, 35th Executive Committee Meeting and 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South Cooperation of the year 2020, including the Election of new PPD Executive Committee.

The Welcome Remarks was made by PPD Executive Director, Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, in which he highlighted the main achievements the organization made during the first half of the year 2020 under the difficult circumstances of the COVID 19 Pandemic and the activities that PPD plans to implement during the second half of the current year. Following the welcome remarks by the Executive Director, statements were made by Mr. Nitish Chandra Sarkar, PCC of Bangladesh, Ms. Zhang Yang, PCC of China, Mr. Jacques Van Zuydam, PCC of South Africa, Dr. SK Sikder (Representing Ms. Vandana Gurnani), PCC of India, Ms. Irma Ardiana (Representing Mr. Nofrijal), PCC of Indonesia, Dr. Sanjo Faniran, PCC of Nigeria and Dr. Munyaradzi Murwira, PCC of Zimbabwe. The PCCs in their Opening Statements briefly highlighted the COVID-19 situations in the countries including the strategies and measures undertaken by their respective Governments in combatting the Pandemic. The PCCs also touched upon the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health, Gender Justice and Socio-Economic Conditions of the Women and Girls. Most encouragingly all the PCCs invariably mentioned about providing the RH, FP and MCH Services in their countries simultaneously with the COVID-19 Prevention, Treatment, Containment and Control Programs. The PCCs also spoke on various issues regarding the forthcoming Board Meeting, Inter-Ministerial Conference and Executive Committee Election of PPD. Followed by the individual statement by the above-mentioned PCCs, the floor was open and other PCCs spontaneously took part in the in-depth discussions briefly highlighting their country situations and measures undertaken by their respective Governments to bring their countries out of the Coronavirus Pandemic and simultaneously continue the RH, FP, MCH and Population Services. The PCCs took the opportunity of this wonderful platform also to exchange the bilateral and multilateral issues of their common concern.

Since the 25th Board Meeting is expected to elect the new Executive Committee for the 2021-2023 Session, the PCCs also discussed and exchanged opinions on the process of conducting the Election. Mr. Jacques Van Zuydam representing the office of the Secretary of PPD Board explained the process of the election in details to the PCCs. While the Cote d'Ivoire PCC Ms. AHUA Badou Marina sought assistance of PCCs to ensure their optimum performance as a New Country, the Nigerian PCC Dr. Sanjo Faniran flagged the difficulties obtaining Egyptian and South African visa for the fellows to attend the Scholarships in those countries. The PCCs of the



respective fellowship offering countries, Egypt and South Africa, requested to keep them informed of any difficulty and committed to look into and address the matter and simplify the process fellowship program implementation.

35th Executive Committee Meeting and 25th Annual Board Meeting

The 35th Executive Committee Meeting and the 25th Annual Board Meeting were held virtually on 14 and 16 October 2020 respectively.

The decisions and recommendations of these governance meetings have been recorded in the minutes and circulated among the Board and Executive Committee Members and PCCs. In addition to the examination of questions related to governance, the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat and the achievements of 2020, the Board approved the PPD Work Plan and Budget for 2021. The Board greatly appreciated the remarkable achievements attained in 2020 despite the restrictions posed by the COVID-10 Pandemic. The Board specially commended the Executive Director and staff for



quickly devising the alternative virtual working mechanism and adapting to the New Normal situation without any adverse effect on the performance of the organization. The Board expressed satisfactions over wide array of important activities implemented in the countries, notably, documentation of Best Practices in 9 countries for facilitating sharing of successful experiences among the member countries and strengthening the institutionalization of South-South Cooperation in 10 countries by organizing National Task Force Meeting to enhance realization of commitments the countries made during Nairobi ICPD25 Summit.



The most important feature of 2020 Governance Meeting was the Election of the Executive Committee (the Office Bearers) of the organization for the 2021 to 2023 Session. The Board Meeting elected in consensus and unanimity **South Africa as the Chair, China as the Vice Chair, Tunisia as the Secretary and Indonesia as the Treasurer** for the 2021-2023 Session. Benin, India, Kenya and Mexico have also been elected as the distinguished Members. Bangladesh is the Permanent Member by virtue of hosting the Secretariat.

PPD welcomes New Board Members, Executive Committee Members and Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs)

The year 2020 witnessed the changes in the portfolios of the Board Members and PCCs in the following member countries:

New Board Member

China:	H.E. Dr. Yu Xuejun, Hon. Vice Minister of National Health Commission
Ethiopia:	H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse, Hon. Federal Minister of Health
Jordan:	H.E. Dr. Nathir Obeidat, Minister of Health
Pakistan:	H.E. Dr. Faisal Sultan, Minister of Health Services, Regulation and Coordination
Zimbabwe:	H.E. Dr. C. Chiwenga, Hon. Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

New Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs)

Ethiopia:	Dr. Ruth Nigatu
Gambia:	Ms. Mariama Fanneh
Indonesia:	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rizal Damanik
Sri Lanka:	Dr. Chithramalee De Silva
Côte d'Ivoire:	Ms. AHUA Badou Marina.

PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY PPD AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

Introduction

This report presents a description of the activities that PPD ARO was able to implement during the year 2020. The first two quarters of the year were months of inaction, occasioned by total rock down in many countries of ARO's focus due to the COVID pandemic. The COVID 19 has tested PPD ARO's resolve to adapt to the new normal of conducting business with virtual meetings replacing physical meetings. During the year, ARO made significant contributions to improved RH/FP policy and funding environment in Africa. We continued to design and implement activities anchored around three strategic interventions of 1) advocacy and policy development; 2) Institutional capacity building for SSC and 3) building partnerships and relationships. The activities aimed at positioning reproductive health and family planning (RH/FP) as high priorities on national development agendas; enhancing greater accountability for the implementation of RH/FP commitments that countries signed onto; and advocating for increased domestic and international funding for RH/FP. A description of the activities implemented, and outcomes thereof, is presented below:

The 10th Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) Coordination meeting

EARHN is a south-south regional advocacy network that was formed with the aim of advocating for improved reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP), population and development outcomes within the Eastern Africa region. Membership of EARHN currently includes 7 countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The work of EARHN is guided by the EARHN 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan whose development was supported by ARO.

Since 2008 and on an annual basis, PPD ARO has been organizing EARHN coordination meetings, with participants drawn from EARHN focal persons, technical people from the Ministries of Health and Planning, civil society representatives and other stakeholders involved in MCH, RH/FP advocacy programmes. The meetings are organized to broker south-south sharing and learning of good practices among the countries in the region, highlighting some good practices and lessons that can potentially be adapted and replicated by other countries to improve their RH/FP outcomes. The 2020 meeting was organized virtually on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. It was the 10th in a series, to be organized by PPD ARO and partners. The meeting registered 100% attendance with all the EARHN member countries attending. The meeting shared experiences on sustaining the momentum for managing and implementing RH/FP, maternal and child health programmes amidst the COVID 19 pandemic; discussed and shared countries' progress and experiences in implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021); and discussed and agreed on practical solutions for effective implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 during the COVID-19 crisis. Strong emphasis was placed on documentation and learning as well as continuous organization of virtual meetings and forums for sharing.

The Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting.

Every year, PPD ARO, in conjunction with NEAPACOH and partners, organizes meetings of the NEAPACOH. The meeting participants are drawn from Parliamentarians who chair or are members of the parliamentary committees of health and their Committee Clerks, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and other stakeholders involved in Family Planning, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) programmes. The 2020 NEAPACOH meeting was hybrid, with Ugandan participants attending physically and other country participants attending virtually on October 28 and October 29, 2020. The theme of the meeting was "Improving Universal Access to RH and FP Services for achieving the ICPD PoA and the SDGs amidst the COVID 19 Pandemic", with Prof. Francis Omaswa, the Executive Director of the

African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST) providing a key note address. The meeting was honored with the attendance of the Uganda Minister of State for Housing, Hon Dr Chris Baryomunsi, who officially opened the meeting and the Executive Director of PPD, who intervened at the meeting by making statements at the opening and closing sessions of the meeting. During the meeting, countries shared achievements and lessons learned in implementation of the October 2019 NEAPACOH commitments and The Kampala Call to Action. The members were able to share challenges they faced which was this year predominantly the novel Corona virus pandemic that has retarded implementation. Over 100 participants drawn from 11 countries attended the meeting.

Follow up meeting on NEAPACOH commitments implementation with Ugandan Members of Parliament

During the NEAPACOH meeting that was held in October 2019, Ugandan Parliamentarians committed to deliver on four areas namely to push for the enactment of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill 2019 into law by January 2020; to engage Ministry of Education and Sports / Cabinet Secretariat for the passing of the National School Health policy; to advocate and popularize the implementation of the Demographic Dividend roadmap; to increase the health budget from 6.4 % to 15%; and to ring fence the 16bn Ushs allocated to family planning to procure FP commodities. On June 29, 2020, PPD ARO, with the support of UNFPA and APHRC, organized a follow up meeting with the Ugandan Parliamentarians to receive progress on the status of implementation of the 2019 NEAPACOH Commitments, and to discuss and agree on actions/way forward to achieve the commitments. The meeting was also used to orient MPs on the Framework for Monitoring and Accountability for RMNCAH Commitments. On the NHI Bill, consultations have been going on with a number of stakeholders in Uganda including a benchmarking study tour to Kenya. A number of recommendations have been received, and lessons learned integrated in the report which is ready for presentation to parliament for the second reading, debate and passing the NHI Bill into law. Regarding the School Health policy, a draft report on the National School Health Policy is in place, and the leadership of the Health committee of Parliament was oriented on the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) of the National School Health Policy. What awaits is for the Ministry of Health to approve the policy. In terms of increasing the health budget, the health sector budget increased by 5.4% from Ushs.2595.38 billion, in FY 2019/20 to Ushs. 2735.96 billion in 2020/21. However, the share of the health sector to the total national budget decreased from 6.4% to 6.2%. The parliamentarians will continue engaging the appropriate organs of the executive of government to make sure that the 16bn Ushs allocated to family planning is ring fenced to procure FP commodities.

Multi-Sectoral Dialogue on ICPD@25 Uganda: Following the Commitments made at the 2019 Nairobi Summit

The Programme Manager attended and actively participated in a meeting to receive progress on implementation of the Uganda commitments that were made at the 2019 Nairobi Summit. The meeting which was supported by PPD and organized by the National Population Council was held on October 8, 2020. The Programme Manager intervened at the meeting by making a presentation on “Looking beyond ‘business as usual’ and tapping into opportunities to realize the commitments”

Harmonized Family Planning resources tracking methodology for Uganda

With support from UNFPA, PPD ARO has been conducting meetings aimed at developing a harmonized Family Planning resources tracking methodology for Uganda. Two such meetings were held in September and December 2020. The background to developing a standardized methodology is that although several FP stakeholders have been tracking FP resources in Uganda, there is currently no common, agreed-upon approach and guidelines/tools to track FP resources in Uganda. This has led to some challenges such as

resources being spent for tracking even in instances where the duplication could have been avoided; low response rate and high respondent fatigue; and some results reported by and among different partners being inconsistent, contradicting and unreliable. The outcome of the meetings is the draft tracking report which is available and awaiting for the Ministry of Health endorsement.

During the period July - 2020, PPD ARO, together with Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), continued to implement the Advance Family Planning (AFP) initiative that is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the Gates institute of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The goal of the initiative is to achieve the FP2020 targets through increasing funding for FP, reducing the policy barriers to FP uptake and raising the visibility of FP. During the period, PPD ARO continued to organize advocacy meetings with Uganda Districts' political and technical leaderships aimed at strengthening the functionality of Family Planning advocacy committees as well as increasing uptake of family planning services and information among the adolescents. The meetings were organized in four districts of Kamwenge, Lamwo, Budaka and Rukungiri. All the four districts were supported to establish functional FP advocacy working groups that are leading and sustaining the advocacy momentum that PPD ARO created around ensuring that FP programmes are adequately resourced, barriers that constrain FP uptake are addressed and the visibility of FP is raised at all levels.

Hosting of the AFP Partners Meeting, March 2 – 6, 2020 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Uganda

The Advance Family Planning (AFP) initiative supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation organizes annual AFP Partners meetings in rotation among partner countries. The 2020 Partners Meeting was hosted by PPD ARO and a sister AFP implementing partner in Uganda, Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU). The meeting, held from March 2 – 6, 2020 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Uganda, brought together over 100 participants from the different AFP countries including FP advocates and development partners. During the meeting, the sharing of progress on implementation of country plans and “Quick Wins” accomplished as well as emerging issues around the landscape for FP at country and global levels was done. The Partners meeting created greater synergy among AFP partners and collaborators in sustaining effective advocacy and political and financial support needed to achieve the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) vision. At the meeting, ARO shared AFP priorities for Year 9 of implementation which will run from the period October 2020 – October 2021 with a focus on accountability, advocacy capacity strengthening and greater local ownership of the FP agenda.

Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa Learning Workshop

PPD ARO is an implementing partner of the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) supported by IDRC. IMCHA seeks to improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes in targeted countries through enhanced production, analyses and syntheses of health systems implementation research as well as enhanced partnering and collaboration between decision makers and researchers on health systems strengthening. In January 2020, in Kigali, Rwanda, the Programme manager participated in a IMCHA organized workshop attended by key members of the research projects and Health Policy and Research Organizations. The event focused, and facilitated the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, in preparation for IMCHA legacy as the initiative that was supposed to end in December 2020 but now extended for another period and to terminate in October 2021.

Canadian Conference on Global Health

The Programme Manager participated in a virtual Canadian Conference on Global Health which was held on 19 – 22 October 2020. He made a presentation on perspectives on the value-added of a structure such as the Health Policy and Research Organizations (HPRO) in getting research evidence into policy

69th ECSA-HC Health Ministers' conference

The Programme Manager participated in the 69th East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) Health Ministers' conference that was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 19th to 21st February, 2020. The conference was themed on "Innovation and Accountability in Health towards achieving Universal Health Coverage". Key themes that were covered during the conference include efforts to improve adolescent and young people's health; and tackling emerging and re-emerging health threats with emphasis on a "Regional One Health Approach" to managing recurrent outbreaks in the region.



The 12th Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH 2020) Meeting held virtually – 28 – 29 October 2020

PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY PPD CHINA PROGRAM OFFICE

2020 was an extraordinary year for the entire world and it was no different for the China Program Office of PPD. Due to the breakout and spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic worldwide, which struck Wuhan City of the Hubei Province of China first, the Office could not concentrate on its traditional national and international capacity building activities. In concert with other human development organizations based in the country, the PPD China Program Office completely engaged its entire human and infrastructural resources in the battle against the deadliest epidemic to prevent, contain, control and eradicate the fatal disease from China. Although the epidemic broke out in one province of this vast country, the entire country took part in the battle against the disease, which is the secret behind the stunning success of win against the disease and free the country from its scourges.

In this year, with the constant guidance and support from PPD Secretariat, National Health Commission (NHC) of China and many other domestic and international institutions and organizations, PPD China Program Office (PPD China) faced the challenge of COVID-19, explored new opportunities in fighting the crisis and has successfully completed two main tasks. Firstly, as a part of the health service system, PPD China Program Office contemplated on a traditionally established maxim saying “**Where there is an epidemic, there is an order. To prevent and control epidemic, is to take responsibility**”, from which it took the inspiration and engaged in the fight against the disease. It is worth mentioning here that the history of the several thousands’ civilization of China is replete with many such maxims of wisdom, which works as beacon of addressing practical life problem solutions. Although PPD China Office could not fight on the frontline like medical workers, the office got in touch with the grassroots communities as soon as the pandemic broke out, volunteered to serve the grassroots population during the worst Pandemic of the human history and did their best to help prevent and control the Pandemic.

Secondly, PPD China actively participated in the preparation of Family Health Care Guidance, aiming to let the guidance become a genial wind blowing into thousands of homes and safeguarding the health of Chinese families. In 2021, with great support from National Health Commission, Ministry of Commerce and Taicang Municipal Government, PPD China Office will resume to serve as the vibrant platform in China to maintain communication with other countries and regions and be highly responsive to embrace new challenges from online training to promote population and development.



Volunteer Service in local Community

ANNEXURES

ANNEX - 1 : 2020 INTERMINISTERIAL CALL FOR ACTION



中华人民共和国国家卫生健康委员会
National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China



17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development: Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking stock and looking ahead in post COVID-19 crisis

We, the Board Members of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), representatives of the Governments of PPD member countries; representatives of non-member countries, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other UN agencies, international organizations; representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), youth groups, academia and media, attended the virtual sessions of the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development: the Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead in Post COVID-19 Crisis, held on 19th & 27th November and 8th December 2020, adopt this call for action. The conference is jointly organized by PPD, the UNFPA and National Health Commission of China (NHC).

This Inter-Ministerial Conference was held one year after the Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25 and in the midst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with the objective of advocating and ensuring political support and investment to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve the "three zeros" by 2030 through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC).

The International Inter-Ministerial Conference focused on the specific thematic subjects on implementation of the Nairobi Commitments in the post COVID-19 pandemic, and accelerating meaningful youth engagement through South-South cooperation (SSC) in advocacy and innovative programming.

The Conference concluded that South-South Cooperation, which received an important impetus with BAPA+40, is needed more than ever today in the achievement of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the post COVID-19 period. Emerging issues and challenges in SSC for population and reproductive health in the achievement of the ICPD and SDGs need to be specially addressed under the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Innovative approaches need to be developed and applied at scale in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and preparedness of public systems to future crises and adapt to the "new normal" with the COVID-19.

We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference,

Recognized the importance and value of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 held in November 2019, in Kenya, for the achievement of goals of the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Reaffirmed our collective commitment to multilateralism, with the aim to promote international unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation confronting COVID-19 through effective actions.

Reaffirmed the commitments made by PPD and its member countries for accelerating the implementation of the ICPD and the commitments for achieving the "three zeros": zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030.

Recognized that the COVID-19 is one of the greatest challenges in modern history. It has brought far-reaching negative impacts on all spheres of society including poverty, health and well-being, and disruption to economic and social development of all countries, especially developing countries.

Noted with deep concerns that family planning and reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health are among the most seriously affected essential health services in countries of the South by the COVID-19 pandemic; and with countries on lockdown and household tensions heightened due to the COVID-19, sexual and gender-based violence is on the rise.

Acknowledged the remarkable progress in South-South and triangular cooperation made by PPD and its member countries in responding to COVID-19 pandemic in the aspect of family planning, reproductive and maternal health by knowledge and experience sharing, policy dialogues, best practice development, innovative project implementation, expert assistance, medical equipment and supplies donation.

Acknowledged with appreciation the great contribution made by the UNFPA, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN agencies and international organizations in promoting SSC for population and reproductive and maternal health in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expressed appreciation for the capable leadership and remarkable contribution of the PPD Chair and the other Executive Committee members made in the past six years in advancing SSTC and sound development of PPD, particularly in the aspects of institutional capacity building, including PPD office infrastructure, resource mobilization and innovative project implementation.

Recognized that young people have been playing a vital role as frontline responders in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world including through risk communication and community engagement. Concerted global action, prioritization of young people's needs, including their sexual and reproductive health, well-being and livelihoods, and meaningful participation in policy and decision making will be crucial for effective response and recovery, and for building a more inclusive, just and sustainable world. Meaningful participation of young people in all decisions that affect their health and well-being should be supported, and good practices should be encouraged and exchanged in the spirit of SSC.

Reaffirmed the particular importance of SSC of population and reproductive health in achieving the three zeros and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, as SSC provides an effective horizontal development cooperation mechanism between State and non-States actors in the health sector of developing countries, and more than ever, country-to-country learning proved its value.

Reaffirmed the relevance and value of the strategic priority areas for SSC in population and reproductive health identified in the PPD Strategic Plan (2020-2024) in the process of achieving the "three zeros" and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The seven identified priority areas are: population and development; universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights-based family planning, including in all phases of humanitarian emergency and disaster risk reduction; women's, children's and adolescents' health; ending gender-based violence; healthy ageing; migration; and poverty alleviation with particular emphasis on emerging population issues.

Acknowledged with deep appreciation to outgoing PPD Board Chair for her dedication to the promotion of SSC among member countries and her urge during the 25th Board Meeting held on 16 October 2020 to continue its work to pursue Sustainable Development Goals; to deepening South-South Cooperation (SSC); and to support PPD's Development to address the new challenges that PPD member countries are facing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Recognized the fundamental and important role of UNFPA, WHO, UNOSSC, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant UN agencies in catalyzing and coordinating the global efforts in improving reproductive and maternal and child health, especially under the context of COVID-19.

Determined to promote the SSTC in the context of COVID-19 pandemic based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation among States and other relevant stakeholders to fully implement the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to build a community with a shared future in health for all.

We, the delegates of the Inter-Ministerial Conference,

1. Call upon the member countries to integrate the Nairobi Summit commitments into national development plans and take concrete actions, based on PPD Strategic Plan (2020-2024), to fulfill the commitments through SSTC for achieving the ICPD and the SDGs set to be accomplished by 2030, with specific emphasis on achieving the three zeros and responding to emerging issues and challenges on population and reproductive health generated and to be generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Call upon the member countries to further advocate SSC in population and reproductive health , as part of the joint efforts to promote unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation among countries, and to build the SSC into their international cooperation programmes, since SSC has never been so important as it is today when countries are facing the COVID-19 pandemic and global dramatic changes in century, and no country can win the battle against pandemic and achieve sustainable development alone. Encourage the member countries to increase their advocacy on the SSC for population and reproductive health in their government statements on the international occasions, whenever appropriate.

3. Call upon the member countries to ensure its more active participation in and contribution to PPD activities and initiate at least one SSTC activity each year.

4. Call upon the member countries and relevant UN agencies and international organizations to further promote experience sharing, knowledge exchanges and strategic dialogues for SSC in the innovative manner under the context of COVID-19 pandemic, by taking advantages of the new digital technologies for instance, online webinars and workshops, virtual meetings and social media. Encourage the member countries to pay more attention to innovative approaches and give more special emphasis on new technology transfer for SSC.

5. Call upon UNFPA, UNOSSC, WHO, UNICEF and other relevant UN agencies to provide appropriate technical guidance in SSC for reproductive, maternal and child health in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, as UN agencies are recognized as trusted partners by governments and their people in technical guidance and reliable information provision.

6. Also call upon the member countries, relevant UN agencies, international organizations and academic institutions to strengthen research capacity and advocacy on reproductive and maternal and child health in responding to the emerging issues and challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Call upon the member countries and other relevant stakeholders to develop COVID-19 response and recovery plans that are youth-inclusive and youth-focused and continue to adopt a youth-centered approach and ensure meaningful participation beyond this crisis.

8. Further call upon the member countries, relevant UN agencies and international organizations to increase their efforts for national capacity building on SSC for achieving the objectives of ICPD and SDGs, as COVID-19 is spreading beyond our imagination in many ways, and developing countries need to systematically upgrade the national capacity for reproductive, maternal and child health.

9. Call upon the member countries, relevant UN agencies, international organizations, donors and other relevant stakeholders to support SSTC, build multilateral partnerships, international solidarity and support multilateralism so as to build back better from COVID-19 for our people.

10. Call upon the member countries and relevant stakeholders to ensure sustainable financing in SSC for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programmes by 2030, for fulfilling the Nairobi Summit commitments and accelerating the implementation of MCH and RH-related SDGs, and make sure that no one is left behind in these challenging and critical times.

ANNEX - 2 : BOARD MEMBERS



Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP

Hon. Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Benin

H.E. Professor Benjamin I. B. Hounkpatin

Hon. Minister of Health
Government of the Republic of Benin



China

H.E. Dr. Li Bin

Hon. Vice Chairperson, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)
Government of the People's Republic of China



Colombia

H.E. Dr. Fernando Ruiz

Minister of Health and Social Protection
Government of Colombia



Cote d'Ivoire

Dr. Moustapha Hinin

Member, PPD Board and Director-General, National Population Office (NPO)
Ministry of Planning and Development, Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire



Egypt

H.E. Hala Mustafa Elsayd Zayed

Hon. Minister of Health and Population
Government of the Arab Democratic Republic of Egypt



Ethiopia

H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse

Hon. Minister of Health
Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



The Gambia

H.E. Dr. Issatou Touray

Hon. Vice President
Government of the Republic of The Gambia



Ghana

Dr. Leticia A Appiah, MD, MPH

Hon. Executive Director, National Population Council (NPC)
Republic of Ghana



India

H.E. Mr. Harsh Vardhan

Hon. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India



Indonesia

H.E. Dr. Hasto Wardoyo, SpOG(K)

Hon. Chairperson, National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPB-BKKBN)
Government of the Republic of Indonesia



Jordan

H.E. Dr. Natheer Obeidat

Hon. Minister of Health
Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Kenya

Dr. Sheikh Mohamed

Hon. Director-General, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD)
Government of the Republic of Kenya



Mali

H.E. Dr. Adama Tiemoko Diarra

Hon. Ministre de l'Amenagement du Territoire et de la Population
Membre du Conseil d'Administration
Gouvernement du Mali, Koulouba



Mexico

Dr. Gabriela Rodriguez Ramirez

Hon. The Secretary-General
Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO)
Ministry of Interior, Government of Mexico



Morocco

H.E. Mr. Khalid Ait Taleb

Hon. Minister, Ministry of Health
Government of the Kingdom of Morocco



Nigeria

H. E. Dr. (Mrs) Zainab Samsuna Ahmed

Hon. Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning
Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning
Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Pakistan

H.E. Dr. Faisal Sultan

Hon. Minister of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination
Government of Pakistan



Senegal

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye DIOUF SARR

Hon. Ministre de la Sante et de l'action Sociale
Gouvernement du Sénégal



South Africa

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP

Hon. Minister for Social Development, and
Government of the Republic of South Africa



Sri Lanka

H.E. Mrs. Pavithra Wanniarachchi

Hon. Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
Government of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Thailand

Dr. Panpimol Wipulakorn

Hon. Director-General, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health
Royal Thai Government



Tunisia

Prof. Dr. Habib Ghedira

Hon. President Director General, National Board of Family and Population
Ministry of Health, Government of Tunisia



Uganda

H.E. Mr. David Bahati

Hon. Minister of State for Finance (Planning)
Government of the Republic of Uganda



Vietnam

Dr. Nguyen Doan Tu

Hon. General Director, The General Office for Population-Family Planning (GOPFP)
Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Yemen

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Ali Bourji

Hon. Secretary General, National Population Council, Council of Ministers
Government of the Republic of Yemen



Zimbabwe

H.E. Dr. C. Chiwenga

Hon. Vice President
Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe

ANNEX - 3 : PARTNER COUNTRY COORDINATORS (PCCs)



Bangladesh

Mr. Nitish Chandra Sarkar

Additional Secretary, Population, Family Welfare and Law
Medical Education and Family Welfare (MEFW) Division
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Benin

Dr. Desire Gaston AHOUNOU, MD, MPH, MSc

Médecin de Santé Publique, Epidémiologiste
Chef Service Planification Familiale,
Santé des Adolescents et Jeunes
Direction Santé Mère Enfant (DSME/MS/BENIN)
Republic du Bénin



China

Ms. Zhang Yang

Director General, Department of International Cooperation
National Health Commission (NHC)
Government of the People's Republic of China



Cote d'Ivoire

Ms. AHUA Badou Marina

Head of the Department, National Population Office
Ministry of Planning and Development, Government of Cote d'Ivoire



Egypt

Dr. Sahar El Sonbaty

Undersecretary for Family Planning Sector
Ministry of Health and Population, Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt



Ethiopia

Dr. Yekoyesew Worku

Director General, Office of the Minister
Ministry of Health, Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



The Gambia

Mr. Saikou JK Trawally

Deputy Permanent Secretary Technical
Office of the Vice President
Government of the Republic of The Gambia



Ghana

Mr. Augustine Jongtey Asebra

Senior Population Officer, National Population Council (NPC)
Government of the Republic of Ghana



India

Ms. Vandana Gurnani

Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Health Mission
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India



Indonesia

Mr. Nofrijal, SP, MA

Principal Secretary, National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPB-BKKBN)
Government of the Republic of Indonesia



Jordan

Dr. May Hani Al-Hadidi

Chairperson, Family Medicines Specialty, Ministry of Health
Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Kenya

Ms. Irene Ashikhongo Muhunzu

Senior Programme Officer, In charge of Partner Coordination at NCPD
National Council for Population and Development (NCPD)
Government of Kenya



Mali

Madame DIAL ABSATOU N'DIAYE

National Director of Population
National Direction of Population, S/C the Minister in Charge of Population Issues
République du Mali



Mexico

Dr. Raúl Horacio de Jesús CANTÚ HERNÁNDEZ (Raúl Cantú)

Secretaría General del Consejo Nacional de Población
Government of Mexico



Morocco

Dr. YAHYANE Abdel hakim MD - MPM

Directeur de la Direction de la Population
Ministère de la Santé, Royaume du Maroc



Nigeria

Dr. Sanjo Oladepo Faniran

Head, United Nations System's Unit, International Cooperation Department
Multilateral Economic Cooperation Division
Ministry of Budget and National Planning
Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Pakistan

Dr. Shahid Hanif

Director General, Population Programme Wing
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
Government of Pakistan

Senegal

Dr. Marie Khemesse

Health General Director
Ministry of Health and Social Action
Government of the Republic of Senegal



South Africa

Mr. Jacques van Zuydam

Chief Director, Population and Development, Department of Social Development,
Government of the Republic of South Africa



Sri Lanka

Dr. Chithramalee De Silva

Director, Maternal and Child Health, Family Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Thailand

Dr. Peerayoot Sanugul

Director of Bureau of Reproductive Health,
Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Royal Thai Government



Tunisia

Ms. Raja TOUIL CHAABANE

Sous Directeur de la Coopération Technique
Office National de la Famille & de la Population (ONFP), Government of Tunisia



Uganda

Dr. Betty Kyaddondo

Director of Family Health Department, National Population Council (NPC)
Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development
Government of the Republic of Uganda



Vietnam

Mr. Luong Quang Dang

Deputy Director of Personnel Department
General Office for Population – Family Planning (GOPFP)
Ministry of Health, Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Yemen

Mr. Motahar Ahmed Zabarah

Assistant Secretary General, National Population Council
Partner Country Coordinator, Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Government of the Republic of Yemen



Zimbabwe

Dr. Munyaradzi Murwira

Executive Director, Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council
Partner Country Coordinator (PCC), Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Government of Zimbabwe

PPD SECRETARIAT



Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa
Executive Director



Dr. Nazrul Islam
Program Director



Ms. Jin Anrong
International Program Coordinator



**Mr. Khandaker Humayun Kabir
(Shishir)**
Head of IT



Mr. Mrityunjoy Das
Manager, Administration



Mr. Zayedul Hoque
Manager, Advocacy
and Communication



Ms. Tahrima Khan
Sr. Program Officer



Ms. Amena Khanom
Finance Officer



Mr. Md. Salahuddin
Administrative Assistant



Ms. Lota Gomes
Office Clerk



Mr. Kazi Jalal Uddin
Driver



Mr. Wohiduzzaman
Driver



Mr. Monjorul Islam
Office Attendant



Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam
Gardener

PPD AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE



Mr. Patrick Mugirwa
Programme Manager



Ms. Betty Mukyala Oburu
Finance Officer



Ms. Eva Nakimuli
Programme Officer



Mr. Achilles Kiwanuka
Programme Officer



Ms. Brigitte Sanyu
Administrative Assistant

CHINA PROGRAMME OFFICE



Ms. Zhu Ying Director
Jenny Mao Programme Officer
Kelland Shen Programme Officer
James Ke Programme Officer
Jeff Shen Programme Officer
Emmie Jiang Programme Officer
Lily Li Programme Officer



PPD SECRETARIAT

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Block-f, Plot 17/B&C, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar
Administrative Zone, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 0088 02 48117941, 48117938, 48117937
Fax: 0088 02 9117817
Email: partners@ppdsec.org
Web: www.partners-popdev.org

PPD AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

Statistics House, Third Floor, Room 3.2
9 Colville Street, P.O. Box 2666
Kampala, Uganda
Telephone: (+256) 414-705-446
Fax line: (+256) 414-705-454
Email: aro@ppdsec.org
Web: www.partners-popdev.org/aro

CHINA PROGRAM OFFICE

No.30 Rd. Dong Xianfu, Taicang,
Jiangsu, 215400, China,
Tel: +8651253719188, Fax: +8651253719126