



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

NEWSLETTER

Issue: July - September 2021

Message from the Executive Director



We are delighted to launch the first edition of the PPD Newsletter covering key activities of PPD Secretariat and its African Regional Office in Kampala along with salient actions in the member countries implemented during the third quarter of the year 2021. Our main objective is to make this newsletter a digital PPD platform for information sharing in the fields of Reproductive Health, Population and Development. We strongly believe in the power of information and the ultimate goal of South-South Cooperation is to bring the changes through constructive information. We wish to inform our member countries, partners, stakeholders and the people in general about our activities despite these difficult times marked by strict lockdowns, restrictions on movement and bans on in-person meetings and gatherings. Since 2020, PPD adapted itself to the "New Normal" and continued playing its role in advocating for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, promoting documentation and exchange of best practices and successful approaches between and among its member countries and exploring new opportunities for partnership and collaboration. We hope that the content of this first edition will be of interest to our readers and we express the wish to see our Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) contribute increasingly in the next edition to be published in January 2022.

35th Executive Committee Meeting and Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meeting of Partners in Population and Development (PPD)



PPD convened its 35th Executive Committee Meeting virtually on 14 July 2021 and was preceded by a PCCs Meeting of the Executive Committee Member Countries. Under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP, Hon. Minister of Social Development of South Africa and PPD Board Chair, the 35th Executive Committee Meeting deliberated on the ongoing and planned PPD activities, administrative issues and financial situation, annual corporate audits for 2020 and 2021 including three-year external audit and further improvement of the organization's work.

PPD Celebrated 2021 World Population Day

PPD celebrated this year the World Population Day under the theme of **"Rights and choices are the answers: whether baby boom or bust, the solution lies in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights for all people"**. This year the day could not be celebrated as usual with meetings, seminars, symposiums, rallies and special publications due to COVID-19 restrictions. PPD Secretariat issued a very strong and appealing statement marking the day and circulated among the member states, development partners and other stakeholders, which has been uploaded into PPD Website and available in the following Link:

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/blogs/ppds-statement-on-world-population-day-11-july-2021/>



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PPD, UNFPA and League of Arab States Webinar on “Sharing Experiences and Best Practices: Islam and Reproductive Health” held virtually on 27 July 2021

PPD, UNFPA and the League of Arab States jointly organized an international Webinar on **“Sharing Experiences and Best Practices: Islam and Reproductive Health”** virtually on 27 July 2021. The Webinar was organized in three sessions: Inaugural Session, Technical Session and Sharing of Country Experiences. The Inaugural Session was addressed by the Under Secretary General of the League of Arab States H.E. Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazala, PPD Secretary Prof. Dr. Habib Ghedira of Tunisia, PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office Dr. Louay Shabaneh.



The Technical Session was chaired by the PPD Secretary Prof. Dr. Habib Ghedira, in which Keynote Address on Islam and Reproductive Health was made by Prof. Jamal Suorour of Al-Azhar University of Egypt, Indonesian Experience on Islam and RH/FP was presented by the Indonesian PCC Prof. Muhammad Rizal Damanik of NFPFB-BKKBN of Indonesia and Tunisian Experience on Islam and Reproductive Health was made by Prof. Slim Ben Sheikh of Tunisian Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The Technical Session was followed by the presentation of the country experiences by prominent country experts from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania and Morocco.

Executive Director’s Appeal to Conduct Massive Vaccination Campaign to Save Lives of People

Despite very fast development and huge production of the Coronavirus Vaccine globally, the greater portion of the world population still left unvaccinated and are vulnerable to the Coronavirus infection and death. The Executive Director, in an audio-visual message, pleaded to the developing countries to conduct

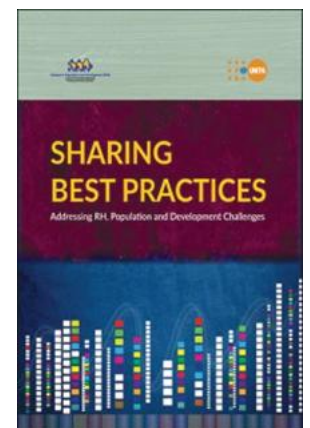


massive vaccination campaign to save lives of the people and urged the vaccine developing countries to relax the intellectual property rights enabling other countries to produce the vaccines in different regions of the world for faster administration.

Printing and Distribution of Two Publications:

1) Sharing Best Practices: Addressing RH, Population and Development Challenges

PPD with assistance of the Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) documented 11 Best Practices in 11 Member States in 2019 and 2020. The compilation of the Best Practices was disseminated through an international webinar and printed with the title **“Sharing Best Practices: Addressing RH, Population and Development Challenges”** in August 2021 and distributed to





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all the Member Countries and collaborative development partners including universities, think tanks and academic institutions.

2) ICPD & SDGs through South-South Cooperation Beyond COVID-19

PPD conducted a rigorous study in the selected member countries on their targets of achieving ICPD, SDG and Nairobi ICPD25 Summit Outcomes. The findings of the study from 10 member countries were collated, analysed and reflected into a report. The report was printed with the title **“ICPD & SDGs through South-South Cooperation Beyond COVID-19”**.



the White Paper prominently featured China's perception and commitment to the ideals and importance of the South-South Cooperation. In the first Chapter under the following caption, China mentions the extent of its focus on South-South Cooperation.

Salient activities of PPD African Regional Office (PPD/ARO)

Despite severe COVID-19 infections and concomitant stringent lockdowns and other forms of restrictions, PPD ARO continued implementation of the planned activities during the period. The activities were anchored around PPD Strategic Oversight of advocacy and policy development; institutional capacity building for SSC and 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 signed by the countries and advocating for increased domestic and international funding for RH/FP.

PPD ARO continued implementing the Advance Family Planning (AFP) Initiative aimed at achieving the FP2020 commitments of implementing advocacy activities for increased financing of FP programs; addressing policy barriers that constrain FP uptake and raising FP visibility at national and subregional levels. PPD ARO also has worked increasingly on the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and its substantial advocacy resulted in the approval of the National Health Insurance Scheme by the National Parliament of Uganda, which is awaiting President's assent to become a Law.

PPD ARO has been annually organizing the **Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH)** meeting every year since 2008. The NEAPACOH meetings share the progress and lessons learned regarding implementation of the reproductive health/family planning related commitments; build capacity of the policy makers to contribute to enhanced accountability, leadership and stewardship for the implementation of the ICPD PoA and achievement of the SDGs in Africa. The 2021 NEAPACOH meeting is scheduled to be held on 28 to 29 October 2021, the preparations of which has been well underway during the reporting period.

PPD celebrated the 2021 International South-South Cooperation Day

On the occasion of the day, PPD issued a statement highlighting the tremendous contributions the 27 member countries made in institutionalizing and promoting South-South Cooperation in Reproductive Health, Population and Development in the respective countries and reaffirming their firm commitment towards achieving the ICPD PoA and the SDGs by 2030. PPD statement was shared with all stakeholders through PPD Website, Social Media Sites and mailing list, the text of which is available at the PPD Website's following link-

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/blogs/ppd-statement-on-the-international-day-of-south-south-cooperation-2021/>

News from the Member states:

China White Paper on "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era"

Government of the People's Republic of China issued and released a White Paper on **"China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era"**. In addition to the principles, objectives and methods of China's International Development Cooperation Assistance,



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News from the Member states:

While this is the first edition of PPD Newsletter, PPD Secretariat intends to highlight the most salient accomplishments of the member countries in the future editions. Most importantly, PPD Secretariat intends to dedicate a section in the Annual Report to highlight the selected achievements against ICPD, SDG and Nairobi Commitments including the countries' own priority programs. In this edition, we are reporting achievements against priority programs of Uganda and Zimbabwe.

UGANDA

During the reporting period, which indeed the continued program of the country, Uganda focussed specifically on Adolescent Reproductive Health; integration of Family Planning in the National Development Plan Program Implementation; increasingly engaged the Youth in the Sexual and Reproductive Health; advocated for increased funding for Family Planning; advocated for prioritizing Family Planning through fertility reduction by the Local Government in their development efforts; addressed unique menstrual health management needs and challenges of the girls amidst COVID-19; oriented religious and cultural leaders to curb high teenage pregnancy and child marriages and oriented the Parliamentarians on population and development issues. Implementation of Programs are led by the National Population Council (NPC) of Uganda with assistance of other agencies.

ZIMBABWE

The current population programs of Zimbabwe are mainly driven under 3 thematic areas:

(1) Achieve Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC),

(2) Address Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices of Child, Early and Forced Marriages and Female Genital Mutilation, (3) Draw on Demographic Diversity to Drive Economic Growth and Achieve Sustainable Development. The priority thematic areas speak for themselves having comprehensive programs being implemented to achieve the ultimate objectives mainly under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Child Care and Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC).

Upcoming Events

26 – 27 October 2021: PCCs workshop on capacity building for SSC Focal Persons in PPD member countries (Virtual and by invitation)

15 November 2021: Session 1 of the 18th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development (Virtual and Open). The theme of the session is "Accelerating achievement of the unfinished ICPD Agenda & SDGs during & post COVID-19 era through South-South & Triangular Cooperation"

16 November 2021: 36th Executive Committee meeting of PPD (Virtual and by invitation)

18 November 2021: 26th Board Meeting of PPD (Virtual and by invitation)

22 November 2021: Session 2 of the 18th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development (Virtual and Open). Theme of the session: Triangular Cooperation in Post BAPA+40: A Multi-stakeholder Partnership for the Achievement of ICPD and SDG 2030 Agenda

29 November 2021: Plenary Session of 18th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development (Virtual and Open). The theme of session: Promoting South-South Cooperation for Attaining ICPD and SDG 2030 Agenda

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