

Dr. Sabina Durrani
Director General, Population Programme Wing, Ministry of
National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination,
Pakistan

REMARKS ON THE BEHALF OF MINISTER AT PPD SESSION (2022)

His Excellencies, Dignitaries, distinguished guests Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of Gov I would like to thank PPD for organizing this forum and providing a common platform where all the policy makers can plan and take decision for Population Management

We are aware of the fact that human resource of a country plays an important role not only in the economic development but also for the social well-being of the country. However, large population size and lack of proper management of human resources may lead to social distress and reduce economic performance.

As per Census (2017) we are a country of 208 Million and by 2022 it is estimated to be 228 million. And if this situation continues we will be 338 Million in 2050.

Also important to mention that Pakistan's largest segment of population consists of youth and if planned properly this youth bulge can be translated into economic gains, with education and skill development.

The government has accorded highest priority to youth empowerment at national level. To accomplish this, a National Youth Development Framework (NYDF) has been developed on the basic principles of 3Es: Education, Employment and Engagement.

In addition, various social programs / schemes have been initiated to meet the confronting challenge of unemployment among youth during the current financial year.

Pakistan is fully committed to accomplish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by reducing Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR). Efforts have also been made to ensure universal access to reproductive healthcare services across the country.

The Council of Common Interests (CCI), under the chair of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has approved recommendations to achieve SDGs related to population management in the country.

The recommendations of CCI have been translated into an Action Plan (2020-25) approved by the Federal Task Force on population under the chair of the President of Pakistan. The Action Plan helps to evaluate the extent of progress towards international commitments to achieve SDGs related to population. It is also important to mention that the NAP is developed in line with ICPD 2025/2030 commitments and with FP 2020 commitments

In the recent history of mankind, the COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest global challenge for the world health system and socio-economic fabric. The pandemic has exposed the complex global interdependencies, highlighted fault lines in societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, economic, social and gender inequalities.

On one side we were in the process of Covid management that another disaster happens in the form of devastated flood in the country causing further deterioration and burden on the health system.

Against all odds, The government of Pakistan is fully cognizant and determined to ensure provision of best health care services to the general public.

Federal and provincial governments are engaged in developing strategic partnerships for enhancing technical and institutional capacities, achieving UHC goals and multi sectoral support, despite all types of crisis.

We are focusing to improve diagnostic facilities, surveillance, isolation wards, ICUs at public sector health care centres alongside complying with other international health regulations. The government is fully committed to increase the health coverage to meet the emerging demand of increasing population.

To ensure and invest on Women, which is almost half of the population, The Government has been fully cognizant of its constitutional responsibilities and steps have been taken for protecting the rights of the women and realizing their full potential in all spheres of life, especially social, economic, political and personal.

In 2020-21 the government introduced several interventions to improve gender governance through financial empowerment of women and expansion of social protection net to encompass needs of women in the most vulnerable groups of population and curb gender-based violence.

To achieve “No Poverty” by 2030 is part of a comprehensive SDG Agenda-1 that calls to end poverty (extreme) in all its manifestations by ensuring social protection, increase access to basic services and support people from economic, social and environmental shocks.

Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Provincial counterparts and the UNDP carried out an extensive series of divisional level workshops on sensitization to SDGs at the grass root levels, localization of SDGs, prioritization of SDGs and data gap analysis for proper monitoring and reporting.

Pakistan has been consistently ranked as one of the most affected countries by climate change. The population is facing challenges of natural hazard like floods, droughts and cyclones, which have been growing in intensity and frequency with the passage of time.

The government is taking different measures to effectively tackle climate change challenges, such as improving technological responses by setting in place early

warning systems and information systems to enhance disaster preparedness climate change resilience and by improving forest management and biodiversity conservation.

The Government of Pakistan is working on utilization of indigenous and environmentally clean energy generation resources. The government has made Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) responsible for renewable energy sector. In this regard, the promotion of alternative and renewable technologies is the top priorities of the government. Several initiatives have been taken to create conducive environment for the sustainable growth of Alternative Renewable Energy (ARE) Sector in Pakistan in order to harness the potential of indigenous renewable energy resources.

In order to mitigate the negative impacts of automobile sector on environment and giving a boost to the economy, the government has approved its National Electric Vehicle Policy targeting a 30 percent shift to electric vehicles by 2030.

In the end just want to emphasize that Population is a cross cutting issue and must be dealt with multisectoral and integrated approach and only through FP

I thank you.
