



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization

Promoting South-South Cooperation

ANNUAL
REPORT

2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS | 01 |
| ABOUT PPD | 03 |
| VISION | 03 |
| MISSION | 03 |
| STRATEGIC PRIORITIES | 04 |
| STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS | 04 |
| GOVERNANCE AND POLICY ORIENTATIONS | 05 |
| Meeting between the Office of the newly elected Chair and PPD Secretariat | 05 |
| Development of Comprehensive Work Plan for PPD for the Year 2021 | 05 |
| 35 th Executive Committee Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meetings | 06 |
| 35 th Executive Committee Meetings | 06 |
| 36 th Executive Committee Meeting and 26 th Annual Board Meeting | 07 |
| New Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) | 08 |
| ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT | 09 |
| 18 th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSC in Population and Development | 09 |
| PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION THROUGH ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING | 14 |
| PPD was Featured Partner of the Month in the UNOSSC Galaxy Platform | 14 |
| Organization of the International Webinar on Sharing Best Practices in Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Population | 14 |
| International South-South Cooperation Day 2021 Celebration | 15 |
| 2021 World Population Day Celebration | 15 |
| NEW MEMBERSHIP | 16 |
| Efforts to Secure Accession of The Philippines to PPD Membership | 16 |
| KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DOCUMENTING AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES INCLUDING COMMUNICATION TOOLS | 17 |
| Development and Submission of a Year End Review Newsletter | 17 |
| Preparation and Circulation of the 2020 Annual Report | 17 |
| Compilation, Editing and Consolidation of the Reports of 10 National Task Force Meetings organized in 10 PPD Member Countries to monitor progress of Nairobi Summit Commitments | 17 |
| Development of the 2020 PPD/UNFPA Inter-Ministerial Conference Report | 18 |
| Sharing Best Practices: Addressing RH, Population and Development Challenges | 19 |
| ICPD & SDGs through South-South Cooperation Beyond COVID-19 | 19 |
| Documenting 4 (Four) More Best Practices in 2021 | 20 |
| Replication of SSC Knowledge Products between the Member Countries | 22 |
| Development and Submission of Progress Report of the UNFPA Funded Activities in 2020 and Work Plan for 2021 | 22 |
| Progress Towards Implementation of China SSCAF Funded Project on Reducing Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh | 23 |
| CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT | 24 |
| International Webinar on "Sharing Experiences and Best Practices: Islam and Reproductive Health" | 24 |
| Establishment of the Centers of Excellence: Development of the Protocols | 25 |
| Capacity Building Workshop for SSC Focal Persons (Partner Country Coordinators – PCC) | 25 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Capacity Building Workshop on Mainstreaming Youth Engagement in Promoting SSC to respond to COVID-19 Crises for Achieving ICPD Agenda | 29 |
| Consultative Workshops of the National Task Force in 4 Member Countries | 31 |
| PPD Scholarship Program | 31 |
| SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AMONG THE MEMBER COUNTRIES | 32 |
| Maternal Mortality Reduction in under Financial Assistance from the SSC Assistance Fund (SSCAF) of the Government of China | 32 |
| Message of Solidarity from PPD Executive Director to the Member States on their Suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic | 33 |
| STRENGTHENING NETWORK AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP | 35 |
| Executive Director Represented PPD in the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) | 35 |
| PPD Contribution to WHO Virtual Consultation on South-South Learning Exchange (SSLE) in Family planning | 36 |
| REINFORCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF PPD SECRETARIAT | 37 |
| IMPROVEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT | 38 |
| PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY PPD AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE | 39 |
| The 11 th Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) Coordination meeting | 39 |
| The Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting | 40 |
| East Africa Region experience sharing and learning meeting on the FP2030 Commitments | 41 |
| Canadian Conference on Global Health | 42 |
| Sub national advocacy work in Uganda | 42 |
| AFP Annual Program – Work Plan and SMART Charting Retreat | 44 |
| Implementation of Population Action International (PAI) Grants | 44 |
| Reducing high fertility rates and Improving Sexual reproductive health outcomes in Uganda’ programme (RISE) | 47 |
| AFP Uganda local partner organizations Advocacy and resource mobilization training workshop | 48 |
| PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY PPD CHINA PROGRAM OFFICE | 49 |
| Seminar on Better Maternal and Child Healthcare for Developing Countries | 49 |



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR – SOUTH-AFRICA

H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP

Hon. Minister of Social Development
Government of the Republic of South Africa

VICE CHAIR – CHINA

H.E. Dr. Yu Xuejun

Hon. Vice Minister, National Health Commission (NHC)
Government of the People's Republic of China

SECRETARY – TUNISIA

Prof. Dr. Habib Ghedira

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

TRERASURER – INDONESIA

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

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

PERMANENT MEMBER – BANGLADESH

H.E. Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP

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



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER – BENIN

H.E. Professor Benjamin I. B. Hounkpatin
Hon. Minister of Health
Government of the Republic of Benin

MEMBER – INDIA

H.E. Mr. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya
Hon. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

MEMBER - KENYA

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

MEMBER – MEXICO

Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez
Hon. Secretary-General, National Council
of Population (CONAPO)
Ministry of Interior, Government of Mexico

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 Program 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:

1. Population dynamics, demographic dividend and development
2. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights including family planning
3. Maternal and Child Health
4. Healthy and active ageing
5. Social cohesion of migrants and their SRHR
6. Health including reproductive health and poverty alleviation
7. Gender-based violence

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:

1. Evidence-based policy advocacy for more political commitment to achieve ICPD and SDGs.
2. Institutionalize the International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development
3. Knowledge management, experience sharing and pilot initiatives
4. Capacity building and technical cooperation
5. Creation of South-South Cooperation Centers of Excellence
6. Improvement of strategic partnership and resource mobilization



GOVERNANCE AND POLICY ORIENTATIONS

Meeting between the Office of the newly elected Chair and PPD Secretariat

The office of the newly elected PPD Chair of South Africa, spontaneously proposed and convened a virtual meeting with the staff members of PPD Secretariat on Monday, 1 February 2021. This was indeed a very positive development of the PPD Governance system, heralding a new era of PPD governing leadership. PPD Secretariat staff members felt extremely honored and encouraged with this magnanimous gesture of the newly elected PPD Chair and expressed their profound satisfaction and happiness and committed to work harder with utmost sincerity and dedication under the leadership of the new Chair.



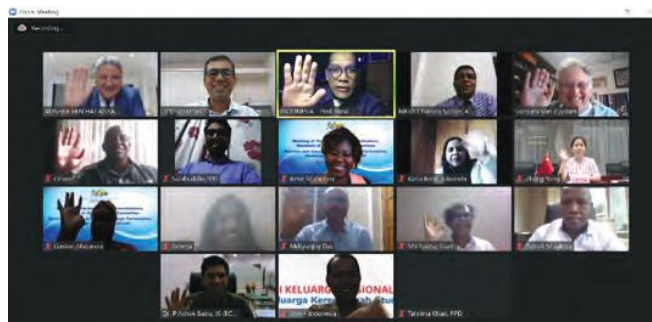
The meeting started with very positive note with opening remarks delivered by the South African PCC Mr. Jacques van Zuydam, representing the Chair's Office, expressing the Chair's satisfaction for remarkably successful organization of the Board Meeting, Executive Committee Meeting and international Inter-Ministerial Conference in October, November and December 2020 amidst COVID-19 Pandemic. He particularly commended the smooth election and transition of the governance leadership with active participation of the member countries. The Executive Director also delivered brief opening remarks praising the Chair's Office for convening such an exceptional event followed by the senior officials briefly presenting the work plans of PPD for the year 2021. The Chair's office was highly satisfied noticing flurries of strategically important activities in the Secretariat work plan and made very significant compliments for their improvements, which was instantly incorporated into the work plan. The PCC of South Africa assured all necessary support and assistance to the Secretariat and asked the Secretariat to indicate the areas in which the Secretariat require assistance from the Office of the Hon. Chair of PPD. On the Executive Director's Request for secondment of technical staff to the Secretariat, Mr. Zuydam requested to provide the areas of expertise to the Office of the Chair.

Development of Comprehensive Work Plan for PPD for the Year 2021

The outline for the PPD Work Plan for the year 2021, specifically from the core fund, was presented in the Executive Director's Report to the 25th PPD Annual Board Meeting held in October 2020, which was discussed and approved by the distinguished Members during the Board Meeting. During the first quarter, PPD Secretariat elaborated the outline and developed a very comprehensive annual work plan integrating the planned activities of UNFPA and SSCAF funded projects including specific timeframes, which was subsequently successfully implemented during the year 2021.

35th Executive Committee Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meetings

The Executive Committee Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meeting was held virtually on 9 July 2021 as a precursor to the organization of the 35th Executive Committee Meeting to prepare and discuss the reports and key issues planned to be presented to and discussed in the forthcoming 35th Executive Committee Meeting. Chaired by the PCC from South Africa, Mr Jacques Van Zuydam, the PCCs Meeting provided necessary guidance to the Secretariat for organizing the 35th Executive Committee Meeting. This is the first time that any Interim Executive Committee Meeting was preceded by the PCC Meeting of the respective Executive Committee Member Countries. The specific objective of the PCC Meeting, as indicated by the Chair, was to elaborately discuss the Agenda Items and relevant issues of the forthcoming 35th Executive Committee Meeting



and brief the respective Executive Committee Member so that a fruitful Executive Committee Meeting take place. The Indonesian PCC Prof. Rizal Damanik requested the Secretariat to prepare and submit quarterly financial report to ensure greater accountability and transparency in the finance and accelerate efforts for resource mobilization for training programs, particularly the Training of Trainers (TOT). He also requested the Secretariat to provide stimulus funds for capacity building through training. The PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa informed that the Secretariat has managed to offset 83% of the building construction related deficiency and commenced replenishing the Endowment Fund as committed during the Tunis Board Meeting. The Bangladesh PCC Mr. Nitish Sarkar reiterated previous Bangladesh request to utilize the empty space of the PPD Secretariat premises for construction of another building to enhance PPD's resource base. The PCC Meeting concluded with suggestions for composition of the sub-committees (1) Planning and Program Development Committee and (2) Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee. All member countries should be provided with the document regarding the current composition of the sub-committees. The PCCs were also requested to express interests for inclusion in the Sub-Committees.

35th Executive Committee Meetings

The 35th Executive Committee Meeting of PPD was held on 14 July 2021. The Interim 35th Executive Committee Meeting offered an opportunity to the new PPD office bearers elected in 2020 to discuss, take decisions and submit recommendations on key issues related to the current and planned activities of PPD Secretariat. The Executive Committee members deliberated on the financial situation of the organization which has substantially improved over the last three years, the management of PPD Secretariat, the extension of the contract of the Executive Director until 31st December 2021, adopted the

Annual Audit of PPD for 2020 and 2021 and recommended to conduct the three-year external audit of PPD by an international Audit Firm. The Executive Committee meeting was chaired by H.E. Ms Lindiwe Zulu, Chair of PPD Board and attended by H.E. Mr. Zahid Maleque, Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, H.E. Dr. Yu Xuejun, Hon. Vice Minister, National Health

Commission of China, and Vice Chair of PPD Board, Prof. Habib Ghedira, Hon. Chairman of ONFP, Tunisia and Secretary of PPD Board, Prof Rizal Damanik, representing the Treasurer of PPD Board and Chairperson of BKKBN, Indonesia. Dr. Mohamed A. Cheikh, Director General of NCPD, Kenya, Representative of the Government of India, Dr. Raul Cantu, PCC of Mexico and Dr. Gaston Ahounou, PCC of Benin.



36th Executive Committee Meeting and 26th Annual Board Meeting

As decided in the 35th Executive Committee Meeting held on 14 July 2021, the 36th Executive Committee Meeting and the 26th Annual Board Meeting were held on 16 and 18 November 2021 respectively. The discussions, recommendations and decisions of both the Governance Meetings have been meticulously recorded in the Minutes of the meetings and circulated separately among the member countries. While most of the issues discussed and decided are classified and applicable for the member countries only, some of the general issues discussed and recommended are as follows:



In addition to the Annual Corporate Audit that the PPD Secretariat conducts annually by a Bangladeshi Chartered Accounting Audit Company under approval from the Board, the PPD Board also conducts an external audit every three years. The process of the current period from 2018 to 2020 was finalized and decided to be conducted by the Board early 2022. The Executive Committee and the Board also advised to enhance international resource mobilization and accelerate program implementation in the member countries. The Board acknowledge with great satisfaction the exemplary partnership between PPD and UNFPA over the last three years and advised to continue the collaboration for more activities in the member countries. The Board members also emphasized on the necessity to collect from the concerned member the successful experiences on combatting COVID Pandemic and share with other countries lagging behind. The Board advised the Secretariat to prepare a position paper with innovative ideas and approaches in tackling the post-covid health and economic crises and submit to the Board for review and sharing with the member countries.

The Hon. new Chair of PPD, H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu MP, Minister of Social Development of South Africa suggested a very precise and decisive approach of PPD governance functions in line with the international governance standard and practices. The PPD Board Chair expressed her determination to dedicate her thoughts and efforts to establish an impeccably flawless governance of PPD that transcends the barriers of times and circumstances and respected by the international community. She emphasized on the diligent engagement of all the member countries in the PPD Governance affairs in order to ensure universal democratic process of PPD Governance. The Board members welcomed the Chair's vision about the governance matters of PPD and expressed their full adherence to the decisions made during its meetings.



New Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs)

PPD welcomes New Board Members, Executive Committee Members and Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs). The year 2021 witnessed the changes in the portfolios of the Board Members and PCCs in the following member countries:

Board Members

- India: H.E. Mr. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- Thailand: Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director-General, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Royal Thai Government
- Uganda: H.E. Hon. Mr. Amos Lugoloobi, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Planning), Government of the Republic of Uganda

Partner Country Coordinators

- Ethiopia: Dr. Munir Kassa, Senior Technical Advisor to the Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Health, Government of the Democratic Federal Republic of Ethiopia
- India: Mr. Vikash Sheel, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Pakistan: Dr. Sabrina Durrani, 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

ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

18th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development titled “Sustained SSC Programs for the Achievement of ICPD and SDGs”, held virtually on 15, 22 and 29 November 2021

PPD in collaboration with UNFPA organized the 18th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development. The IIMC is an annual event which brings together high-level policy leaders from PPD member countries, other developing countries and global and regional stakeholders, the academia, and Civil Society Organizations, engaged in the arena of RH, population and development.

The 2021 IIMC was themed on “Sustained SSC Programs for the Achievement of ICPD and SDGs”. This conference served as a global platform for PPD member countries and development stakeholders for peer review, knowledge exchange, experience sharing, networking, policy dialogues and review of bi-lateral commitments that contribute to the achievement of the unfinished agenda of the ICPD and SDGs through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). Discussions during the sessions specifically centered

around SSTC in a post COVID context to sustain the achievements made by PPD member countries in sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, youth empowerment, population and development. The Conference provided a high-level global forum for advocating and generating support for strong national stewardship, leadership and ownership for the improvement of adolescent's access to sexual, reproductive health and family planning services with adequate supply of RH commodities in PPD member countries during the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. mobilization of resources at all levels to



ensure affordable access to maternal and child healthcare services; building partnerships amongst member countries and other development agencies for global solidarity through SSTC.

The conference was divided into three sessions each held virtually on a different day with session One running on 15th, Session Two on 22nd and session Three on 29th November 2021 respectively.

Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, PPD presided over the proceedings of Session One. He used the occasion of his opening remarks to highlight the importance of organizing this conference annually, which contributes in advancing programs and activities in PPD member countries through sharing, and exchange of successful experiences and best practices. The Executive Director reiterated his thanks and gratitude to UNFPA for its highly appreciated and great partnership in organizing the IIMC as witnessed by the presence of the Deputy Executive Directors in the first and in the plenary sessions Ms. Diene Keita and Mr Ib Peterson respectively. H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP, Chair, PPD Board and Honorable Minister for Social Development of the Government South Africa who gave an official introductory statement and lauded the high level of participants. She called upon all leaders in their respective capacities to fulfill their positive obligations by implementing actions that will accelerate progress in the current challenging times in order to achieve especially the SDG 3 and ICPD commitments. She particularly singled out the need to institutionalize SSC centers of excellence and creating partnerships for South to South and Triangular Cooperation.

Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), made the opening statement, underscoring the importance of South-South Cooperation, which is opening up resources, be it technical or financial for contributing to improved RH, population and development outcomes. She applauded PPD for the excellent job done to providing forums for South-to-South Cooperation and offering this unique platform to leaders, professionals and experts. She expressed the full and continued support of UNFPA to PPD and to South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation as strengthened in the new strategic plan of UNFPA. The keynote speech was delivered by Ms. Ana Treasure, the World Health Organization / Pan American Health Organization Representative in Nicaragua who stated that the Americas were the most highly affected region of the world by the COVID 19 pandemic and called upon the need to share experiences and expertise in fighting the pandemic and its adverse effects especially through strong political leadership and improvement of access to life saving health services.

The keynote address was followed by presentations from the different first session panelists including: Dr. S K Sikdar, MBBS, MD, Advisor, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India; Dr. Betty Kyaddondo, Director, Family Health, National Population Council of Uganda; Dr. Sanjo Oladepo Faniran, Deputy Director, Social Development Department Human Capital Development Division, Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria and Mr. Jacques van Zuydam, Chief Director Population and Development, Department of Social Development, South Africa.

The first session mainly centered on the subject of accelerating the achievement of the unfinished agenda of the ICPD and SDGs during and post COVID-19 era through SSTC. Given the prevailing global challenge resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic to the fulfillment of the ICPD and SDGs by 2030, the panelists who included experts, leaders and policymakers laid on table innovative and action-driven solutions that will potentially address the critical challenges that countries are facing due to COVID-19. The ideas presented included the need to find innovative ways to continue SSTC and strengthen the capacity and knowledge management system in post-COVID-19 through partnerships.

Session Two was opened by Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director of PPD, who welcomed all panelists and participants and highlighted the importance of partnership and networking in fighting the virus. He expressed his thanks to the Moderator of the session, Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) for the support provided by her Agency in disseminating PPD's activities and publications through the South-South Galaxy plate form. Mr. Arthur Erken, Director, Policy and Strategy Division, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) deliver the keynote remarks focusing on the advantages of SSTC at national and global levels and constitutes a return on investment which important for developing countries. Other presenters in the second session included: Dr. Munyaradzi Murwira, Executive Director, Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council; Mr. Markus Reisle, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, New York; Mr. Ahmed Diken, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Islamic Development Bank and finally Ms. Mayumi Endoh, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The second session of the 18th IIMC focused on the topic of Triangular Cooperation and post BAPA+40 with a special emphasis on the multi-stakeholder partnership for the achievement of ICPD and 2030 Agenda. Panelists on this topic included experts from the Global North and South. Panelists focused their intervention on how to expand PPD's network of partners to include the Global North in working towards shared goals. They shared knowledge and lessons learned on successful triangular cooperation in relevant thematic areas and demonstrated the importance of Triangular Cooperation in today's world in working towards the ICPD and SDG goals. They emphasized the great need to



expand PPD's network by including like-minded partners from the North and invigorate the spirit of complementarity between the North and South through triangular cooperation.

The ministerial session was officially opened by remarks from Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, PPD who welcomed the Vice President of the Gambia, Ministers, Vice Ministers, Senior Government officials, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA and all participants and thanked them for joining this important session which will conclude the 18th IIMC. He highlighted the key recommendations submitted by the participants during the previous two technical sessions. He, then invited PPD Board Chair H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, MP and Honorable Minister for Social Development, Government South Africa to deliver her Statement. She thanked the Ministers and Country high level delegations for finding time to attend the session. She also thanked PPD Secretariat for the excellent organization of the conference being held virtually. This was followed by a statement made by H.E. Mr. Ib. Petersen, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA. Other statements were made by H.E. Mme Dr. Issatou Touray, Honorable Vice President of the Gambia; H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse, Honorable Minister of Health of Ethiopia; H.E. Karl Kendrick Chua, Honorable Minister for Socioeconomic Planning, Government of the Philippines; Dr. Yu Xuejun, Honorable Vice Minister, National Health Commission (NHC) of the Government of the People's Republic of China; Dr. Nausheen Hamid, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, Government of Pakistan; Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh, Director General of the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Government of Kenya; Dr. Leticia Adelaide Appiah, Executive Director, National Population Council (NPC) Government of the Republic of Ghana; Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director-General Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand; Prof. Rizal Damanik, Deputy for Research and Training, National Population and Family Planning Board of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

Interventions from the honorable speakers during this session centered on the subject of Promoting South-South Cooperation for attaining ICPD and the Agenda 2030. The honorable speakers reaffirmed PPD member countries



commitment to continued implementation of the ICPD and SDGs through SSTC. They discussed respective country level COVID-19 crisis and its implication in the investments for the achievement of SDG 3 on health and the ICPD commitments; analysis of gaps and needs for domestic investments in the response to the COVID-19 crisis; integrating ICPD unfinished agenda into national development plans to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Strong recommendations were made for high level political support and partnerships towards addressing COVID-19 challenges as well as promoting SSTC as an accelerator in global advocacy, knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and capacity development towards achieving ICPD and SDGs.

The 18th International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) concluded by the adoption of the Call to Action by the representatives of the member countries, UNFPA and UN Agencies and key stakeholders committing to re-invigorating SSTC in order to expedite the progress of achievement of ICPD and SDGs. They appreciated PPD and all its partners as well as UNFPA for hosting the meeting which enabled delegates to interface with high level policy leaders, experts, researchers, civil society voices and development partners. They recalled the commitments made at the ICPD+25 Nairobi Summit and the BAPA+40 Plan of Action adopted in 2019; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the UN in September 2015, and at several IIMC meetings in the area of reproductive health, family planning, population and development. They appreciated that there is international recognition and acceptance of SSTC as a key mechanism for sustainable development as reflected in the BAPA+40 outcome document, the ICPD+25 Nairobi Commitments and the SDG 17.

The honorable delegates called for country leadership represented as Board Members and Ministers to speed-up the process of strengthening and re-building better resilient networks of health service systems, based upon existing capacities of indigenous research institutions, think tanks and industrial production firms to support them to contribute to moving towards universal health coverage with a specific focus upon SRHR, adolescents and youth health services.

They finally reiterated the need to support PPD to map out centers of excellence and skill sets of professionals in its role of implementing SSTC and to establish SSTC networks of health professional and exchange programs as well as carrying out evaluation studies of SSC health project in order to assist the definition of system gaps that need to be addressed.

PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION THROUGH ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

PPD was Featured Partner of the Month in the UNOSSC Galaxy Platform

The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) features one of its closest global partners as the “Partner of the Month”. During the month, UNOSSC conducts extensive publicity and advocacy campaign for promoting the organization and its selected activities having elements of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) worldwide, specially through its Corporate Website South-South Galaxy Platform.

This year, UNOSSC featured PPD as the Partner of the Month (from 15th January to 14th February 2021) and published, among others, a promotional video specially developed on PPD by the Secretariat reflecting the establishment, vision, mission, mandates, uniqueness and comparative advantages, organizational structures, governance, executives, strategic oversights, important accomplishments, messages to the international community and photos depicting rich historical memories in the South-South Galaxy Platform of UNOSSC Corporate Website. Apart from this special activity, UNOSSC linked PPD’s Website with its South-South Galaxy Platform, which is accessible through the link – <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/ppd>

Organization of the International Webinar on Sharing Best Practices in Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Population, 23 March 2021

One of the most important accomplishments of PPD in 2020 was documentation of 9 (Nine) Best Practices in Nine Member Countries, such as, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Morocco, Thailand and Vietnam. Together with the two Best Practices developed in 2019 in Kenya and Tunisia, the total Best Practices stood 11 (Eleven). PPD in collaboration with the National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPPB-BKKBN) of Indonesia and UNFPA, organized an International Webinar on 23rd March 2021, aimed at sharing the successful strategies and approaches available in PPD member countries which are reflected in the Best Practices for creating interest and enthusiasm for their replication by intending countries and institutions. More than 400 public health experts, program managers and population activists from PPD Member Countries and other countries from across the world attended the Webinar. Moderated by PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, the Webinar was officially opened by the PPD Chair, H.E. Ms. Lindiwe



Zulu, Hon. Minister of Social Development of South Africa. The official opening was preceded by important statements made by Prof. Muhammad Rizal Damanik, Partner Country Coordinator of Indonesia on behalf of PPD Treasurer H.E. Prof. Dr. Hasto Wardoyo, Hon. Chairperson of BKKBN, Indonesia, Mr. Arthur Erken, Director of Policy and Strategy Division of UNFPA Headquarters and PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa.

The concerned consultants, who developed the Best Practices under the guidance and supervision of the PCCs of the respective member countries, briefly presented the key features of the Best Practices. The Presentation Session was moderated by PPD PCC of Indonesia Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rizal Damanik, Deputy for Training, Research and Development of BKKBN, Indonesia. The South African Consultant, who edited and compiled the Best Practices, presented an incisive review of all the Best Practices and underscored the necessity of their widespread dissemination and replication by the institutions. The Meeting was concluded with the Closing Address delivered by Ms. Chouaa Dassouky, Director of Population Policies, League of Arab States representing the Technical Secretariat of the League of Arab States for Population and Development. This was the first attendance of an Arab League leader in the PPD event after signing of the MOU between PPD and League of Arab States.

International South-South Cooperation Day 2021 Celebration

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) as the pioneer and the staunchest proponent of South-South Cooperation (SSC) was planning to organize some programs to celebrate the International South-South Cooperation Day. But due to the strongly inhibiting Coronavirus restrictions, particularly widespread transmission of the DELTA Variant of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh, PPD had to be contended with issuance of a very strong and appealing Statement marking the day.

PPD statement acknowledged and highlighted the tremendous contributions made by the 27 member countries in institutionalizing and promoting South-South Cooperation in Reproductive Health, Population and Development in the respective countries and reaffirming the unwavering commitment towards the achievement of the ICPD PoA and the SDGs by 2030. PPD statement was shared through PPD Website, Social Media sites and mailing list, the text of which is available at the following link – <http://www.partners-popdev.org/?p=4507>

2021 World Population Day Celebration

The World Population Day is celebrated on 11 July nationally and internationally every year with different programs such as seminars, symposiums, rallies, special publications to accelerate awareness and deepen commitments of all actors engaged in family planning, sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescent's reproductive health, maternal and child health etc. The theme of this year's population day was "Rights and choices are the answers: whether

baby boom or bust, the solution lies in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights of all people.” This year was the second year the day was celebrated virtually while the world has been struggling to contain the Coronavirus Pandemic. Eventually, the day could not be celebrated this year with myriads of usual programs like other years due to strict Coronavirus related restrictions. The Secretariat issued a statement on behalf of the organization and distributed to the member countries and all the relevant international organizations and development partners. The statement is available in the PPD Website in the following link:

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP

PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa made extensive efforts and developed a very good relationship with the Ambassador and High Commissioner of Brazil and Malaysia to Bangladesh respectively to secure the countries' membership of PPD in 2020. Based on the discussions with and agreements of the Diplomats, the Executive Director submitted formal invitations to the countries through the Diplomats to join PPD as Member Countries, which reportedly submitted to the respective Foreign Ministries of the countries. During the year 2021, the Diplomats were either mostly in their countries or worked from home due to severe COVID induced restrictions resulting in low level of communications. However, the invitations are reportedly in the process in the respective countries.

Efforts to Secure Accession of The Philippines to PPD Membership

Following rounds of very cordial and fruitful discussions by PPD and also supported by UNFPA/ICCO, the Philippines officials expressed passionate interests to join PPD as Member and promote South-South Cooperation in RH, Population and Development. In response to the invitation from the PPD Chair H.E. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu MP, Minister of Social Development of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Karl Kendrick Chua, Minister of Socioeconomic Planning of the Government of the Philippines made a statement at the Ministerial Session of the 18th Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation on Population and Development on 29 November 2021. On conclusion of his statement, Hon. PPD Chair expressed hopes that The Philippine will join PPD as Member.

Additionally, the Executive Director also had very fruitful discussions with the Ambassadors of Algeria and Libya who expressed their wholehearted interests to join PPD as Member States. The Algerian Ambassador requested the Executive Director to initiate the process for his country to become member of PPD.

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

Development and Submission of a Year End Review Newsletter

Immediately following the end of the year 2020 and pending preparation of the Annual Report, PPD Secretariat prepared a Year End Review Newsletter containing the most salient highlights of the principal achievements and milestones of the year 2020. The Year End Review Newsletter was widely disseminated among the member countries and principal development partners. It has also been uploaded into the PPD Website, which is accessible through:

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Year-End-Review-2020-EN.pdf>



Preparation and Circulation of the 2020 Annual Report

The Secretariat prepared the Annual Report 2020 highlighting the fundamental achievements of 2020. The writing, formatting and design of the report was done in-house and the report in both versions English and French was disseminated and uploaded into PPD Website electronically. The Secretariat received numerous accolades from the member countries, development partners and collaborating agencies about huge volume of accomplishments achieved by the PPD amidst the COVID19 Pandemic. The electronic copy of the Annual Report, uploaded into the PPD Website, is accessible through the link–

<http://www.partners-popdev.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AR2020-EN.pdf>



Compilation, Editing and Consolidation of the Reports of 10 National Task Force Meetings organized in 10 PPD Member Countries to monitor progress of Nairobi Summit Commitments

Another remarkable achievement of PPD was the organization of National Task Force Meetings in 10 PPD Member Countries to monitor progress of implementation of the Nairobi Commitments made by the Governments during ICPD25 Global Nairobi Summit. The NTF Meetings were organized in Bangladesh, Benin, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Thailand, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. As a matter of fact, the National Task Forces were initially created in

the countries primarily for institutionalization of SSC in the countries and for accelerating implementation of SSC activities in reproductive health, population and development at national level. While the PCCs convened the meetings, Rapporteurs were assigned to develop the report of the meeting proceedings. PPD Secretariat received all the 10 reports from the Rapporteurs through the PCCs. During the first quarter of 2021, the Reports were compiled, reviewed, edited, formatted and designed for printing for widespread dissemination. All the reports were separately formatted country wise and shared digitally as PDF format with the Member Countries to get their feedbacks. During 2021, PPD supported National Task Force in Tunisia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe to report on progress for the implementation of Nairobi Summit Commitments.

Development of the 2020 PPD/UNFPA Inter-Ministerial Conference Report

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 to post-COVID-19 Crisis was held in three sessions on 19 and 26 November and 8 December 2020. The Technical Session One addressed the “Implementation of the Nairobi Commitments Through South-South Cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era” and the Technical Session 2 addressed the “Youth Engagement through South-South Cooperation in Advocacy and Innovative Programming”. The Ministerial Session expressed country commitments to implement the Nairobi Commitments of achieving Three Zeros, Zero Unmet Family Planning, Zero Preventable Maternal Mortality and Zero Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices. The PPD Chair-elect, Ministers and Board Members from PPD Member Countries and International Dignitaries such as UNFPA Executive Director and UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Youth addressed the Conference. PPD Secretariat prepared a very comprehensive report reflecting Conference Proceedings and Outcomes and the electronic copy of the Report has been uploaded into the PPD Website, which is accessible for the concerned viewers. The findings of the Conference invariably contribute to annual work planning in addition to the long-term Strategic Plan in implementation. The Conference Report made accessible for the interested readers through PPD Website Link –



<http://www.partners-popdev.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/17iimc2020-Report.pdf>.

Sharing Best Practices: Addressing RH, Population and Development Challenges

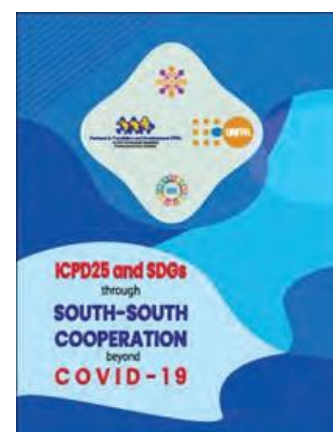
One of the fundamental founding mandates of PPD is identification, documentation, scaling-up, publication and sharing and exchange of the Best Practices in and among the Member States. PPD documented 11 Best Practices in 11 Member Countries (*Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Vietnam*) in 2019 and 2020. While the Secretariat coordinated the entire work, the respected Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) extended crucial assistance in the documentation of the Best Practices in the country level. The respected PCCs identified the eminently qualified consultants for documentation of the Best Practices, ensured that the Best Practices were documented properly and arranged sending the documents to the Secretariat. One of the most illustrious Epidemiologist & Demographer from South Africa assisted PPD in editing and compilation of the Best Practices, which were virtually disseminated worldwide in March 2021 to encourage and facilitate replication. 6 PPD Member Countries expressed interest to replicate 6 Best Practices, and the Secretariat is in the process of facilitating the replication.



The compilation of the Best Practices was printed with the title ***“Sharing Best Practices: Addressing RH, Population and Development Challenges”*** in August 2021 and distributed to all the Member Countries and collaborative development partners including universities, think tanks and academic institutions.

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

A rigorous study was conducted initially attempting in 15 member countries with the objective of analyzing the progress made by the countries against their targets of achieving ICPD, SDG and Nairobi ICPD25 Summit Outcomes. PPD developed and submitted a comprehensive and structured questionnaire to 15 selected countries and received response with exhaustive inputs from 10 countries. One of the Bangladesh’s leading experts on RH, Population and Development assisted PPD in the analysis and development of the report on ***“ICPD & SDGs through South-South Cooperation Beyond COVID-19”*** which was printed and distributed to the Member Countries, development partners, universities and academic institutions in August 2021.



Documenting 4 (Four) More Best Practices in 2021

In addition to 10 Best Practices documented previously and disseminated early 2021, PPD documented 4 (four) more Best Practices during the year 2021 in four member countries, such as, Benin – Documentation of South-South Cooperation Best Practices, Kenya – Promoting Inter-Country Cooperation in Population and Development, Pakistan – Creating Momentum to Institutionalize Post-pregnancy Family Planning Services Across Two Provinces of Pakistan and South Africa – Advancing Youth SRHR Advocacy through Civil Society – Government Partnership. These Best Practices mainly focus on supporting other countries by sharing and transfer of knowledge, ideas, experiences, technologies that continue to produce significant positive results in the countries of origin. Negotiations with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation are in progress for disseminating the five Best Practices through UNOSSC Galaxy Platform for international visibility. The salient features of the 4 (four) Best Practices are as follows:

Documentation of South-South Cooperation Best Practices – by Benin

Generally, one particular program is considered as the Best Practice provided it demonstrates the standard criteria of innovation, relevance, ethical soundness, efficiency, effectiveness, tangible impacts, scalability, replicability and sustainability. It has been successful one place or country and replicable to another place of similar socioeconomic and cultural settings. In case of Benin, the particular elements of national programs showing spectacular success in achieving its FP/RH objectives identified as the Best Practices. For instance, the efforts creating enabling environment for keeping girls in school; engagement of religious and traditional leaders to eliminate harmful practices and boosting demographic dividend; strengthening policy advocacy for youth-friendly legislation; institutional reforms to reposition family planning in the country; mobilizing domestic resources for purchase of contraceptives and making them available in all health facilities; introduction of comprehensive sexuality education in the national education and training curricula; mobilizing men in FP/RH by creating “Papa Champions”, “Husbands’ Schools” and “Boys Club” platforms; using mobile clinics in motorized boats to serve isolated populations; introduction of IUD during postpartum and postabortion have been identified as the Best Practices by Benin.

Promoting Inter-Country Cooperation in Reproductive Health, Population and Development as Best Practices –by Kenya

The National Council on Population and Development (NCPD) and the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has significantly improved the Reproductive Health, Population and Development programs of Kenya and several African Countries such as Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Malawi, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, South Sudan and Mauritius through Inter-Country (South-South) Cooperation programs. The NCPD and KNBS fostered and promoted SSC in RH, Population and Development through technical assistance with support from the development partners such as UNFPA and World Bank in developing

population policy communication, population policy formulation, population situation analysis, advocacy, demographic dividend, conducting population census, preparation of population monographs and making population situation analysis of these countries. NCPD and KNBS also built capacities of Kenya and other country government institutions in generating quality, timely and reliable population data for policy planning and evidenced-based decision making. The modalities used to make these remarkable achievements were, among others, exchange of observation study tours, organization of seminars, symposiums, capacity building workshops and training courses, sharing of population communication tool-kits, hosting of benchmarking delegations. While these countries have already been developing programs, human resources and institutions led by NCPD and KNBS, other African countries can benefit by replication of the programs, which makes them important Best Practices.

Creating Momentum to Institutionalize Post-pregnancy Family Planning Services Across Sindh and Punjab Provinces of Pakistan.

The Population Program Wing (PPW) of the Ministry of National Health Services, Coordination and Regulation of the Government of Pakistan implemented NAYA KADAM Project with technical assistance of the Pathfinder International and financial assistance of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Naya Kadam's whole market approach strengthened public and private health systems and created enabling environment for the provision of quality, accessible, post-pregnancy family planning (PPFP) services in the Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan. The project facilitated functional integration of PPFP, multisectoral linkages, technical working groups and harmonious information management systems. To ensure access to quality services, the Project concentrated on building providers' capacity and skills for PPFP and PAC service delivery, with a focus on adolescents and youths' access to bias-free gender sensitive services. The immediate outcome of the project included increased postpartum contraceptive uptake through the provision of high-quality PPFP services including postpartum family planning (PPFP) and post-abortion family planning (PAFP). The project approaches revolutionized thwarting of population explosion in Pakistan and this innovative approach can be a wonderful Best Practice for replication by other countries.

Advancing Youth SRHR Advocacy through Civil Society - Government Partnership in South Africa

Involving youth through Civil Society and Government partnership in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHS) is a highly-successful initiative in South Africa. South Africa faced challenges of youth inclusion in issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), which the country has been effectively addressing in partnership with Civil Society named Partners in Sexual Health (PSH). Partners in Sexual Health (PSH) is a South African evidenced-based non-profit organization that provides and advocates for Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) including HIV/AIDS Services to men, women particularly adolescents and youth. In recognition of the importance of meaningful and effective youth participation in the SRHR agenda, PSH

established the Siyakwazi Youth Network (SYN) in August 2015. The network is grounded in recognition of the fact that, youth as civil society activists have latent capacity and power to be significant agents of positive change. This important network of Partners in Sexual Health (PSH) has been working in partnership with the National Population Unit (NPU) & Provincial Population Units (PPUs), located in the national and provincial offices of the Department of Social Development (DSD), and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). These activities are conducted at different tiers, namely national, provincial, districts and municipal levels, to enhance inter-provincial knowledge and experience sharing that supports provincial integration. The human right based approach of the partnership proved to be tremendously effective and successful in youth inclusion in issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and therefore is an unapparelled Best Practice for replication by other countries.

Replication of SSC Knowledge Products between the Member Countries

Twinning Arrangement (presently called Reverse Linkage) was attached the greatest importance by the Founding Visionaries of PPD as one of the key mechanisms for strengthening the South-South Cooperation through mutual exchanges towards improvement of lives of the people in the Southern countries. Plethora of the knowledge, experiences and expertise exist in the southern countries themselves. All that required is mutually exchanging these repositories of resources between and among the countries with a spirit of friendship and solidarity to strengthen each other's programs.

PPD has undertaken such a magnificent initiative to facilitate these exchanges between three Member Countries. PPD is implementing a Reverse Linkage project on Replication of Ghana's Best Practices to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Uganda and Zimbabwe, focusing specifically on teenage pregnancy, increasing the uptake of quality youth friendly and integrated SRH and HIV prevention services, improving access to appropriate health information by adolescents, and creating youth friendly health services in the country level. Subject to the success of the first experimental initiative, similar initiatives will be undertaken among other countries in the future, which are expected to yield faster and better results. The spontaneous interest and resolute endeavors of the concerned member countries will be the motivating force for the success of the initiative.

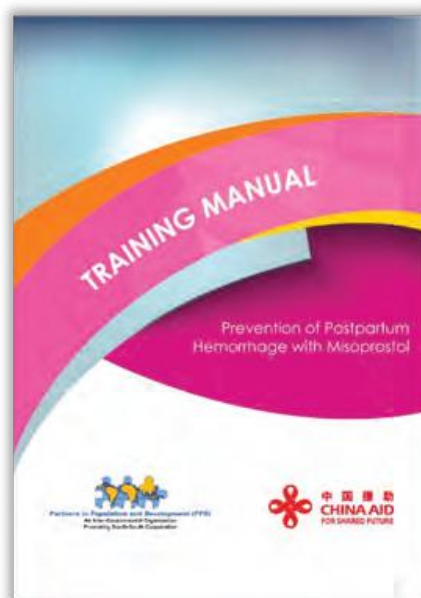
Development and Submission of Progress Report of the UNFPA Funded Activities in 2020 and Work Plan for 2021

Under the MOU signed between PPD and UNFPA in 2018, PPD implements a set of activities in the member countries under UNFPA Financial Assistance against a mutually agreed work plan submitted beforehand. For instance, PPD documented 9 Best Practices, organized 10 NTF Meetings, convened the Inter-Ministerial Conference and implemented few other activities in 2020 under UNFPA Financial Assistance. PPD developed a comprehensive narrative activity

progress report together with the financial statement for the 2020 activities and submitted to UNFPA. PPD also developed and submitted the Work Plan for activities to be implemented in 2021 to UNFPA, which was approved and funded by UNFPA. Despite COVID situation in PPD member countries, almost all activities reflected in the Work Plan and funded by UNFPA were implemented successfully.

Progress Towards Implementation of China SSCAF Funded Project on Reducing Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh

The implementation of the Maternal Mortality Reduction Project titled ***“Providing Comprehensive, Safe and Appropriate Intervention for Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh”*** has been progressing in full-swing despite strict lockdowns and restrictions to contain and control Coronavirus Pandemic in Bangladesh. All the necessary preparations have been finalized to complete implementation of the project right at the community beneficiary level. The Training Modules for capacity development of the field officials have been developed by the international experts and translated into the local language under the close supervision of the country’s premiere Gynecologist, the Chairperson of the Obstetric and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB). Besides, the medicines and Postnatal Care Kits have been imported and stored for distribution among the poor pregnant mothers of the remote rural community to save their lives during pregnancy and childbirth. The importation of the medicines and the allied hygienic products entailed huge amount of activities such as international procurement, shipment, obtaining tax exemption, release, transportation and storage of the products in the Government Warehouses for timely delivery to the concerned field officials. Thanks to the committed and hardworking staff members, all these activities were completed amidst the tightest Pandemic restrictions in Dhaka. The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka representing the SSCAF and PPD Secretariat handed over the Tablet Misoprostol and Postnatal Care Kits to the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh. The DGFP and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh integrated Tablet Misoprostol and the Postnatal Care Kits donated by the Government of China under the project for distribution to the beneficiaries under the national plan for maternal mortality reduction program.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

International Webinar on “Sharing Experiences and Best Practices: Islam and Reproductive Health” held virtually on 27th July 2021

Partners in Population and Development (PPD), the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organized an International Webinar on “Sharing Experiences and Best Practices: Islam and Reproductive Health” on 27th July 2021. Webinar was attended by members of the Arab Council for Population and Development from the National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab countries, Member States of the Partners in Population and Development, and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Arab States Offices and other partners.

The objectives of the Webinar were:

- Discussing ways of transferring knowledge and exchanging experiences in population and development between countries, and analyzing reproductive health issues from an Islamic perspective and reviewing Islam’s position on them.
- Participation of countries with successful experiences in the population policies adopted regarding family planning and reproductive health at the national level to provide a framework for policy approaches in the field of RH
- Strengthening South-South cooperation between member states of the Arab Council for Population and Development and members of Partners in Population and Development

The Webinar was divided into three sessions, the Inaugural Session, the Substantive Technical Session, and the session on Sharing of the Country Experiences. The Inaugural Session was addressed by H.E. Mrs. Haifa Abu Ghazala, Under Secretary General, Head of Social Affairs Dept. League of Arab States; Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD); Dr. Louay Shabana, Regional Director, UNFPA Arab States Regional office (ASRO); Prof. Habib Ghedira, Hon. Chairman of the National Board of Family and Population of Tunisia, Secretary of PPD Board and Chair of the Arab Council on Population and Development.



The substantive Technical Session was chaired by Prof. Habib Ghedira in which the Keynote address on Islam and Reproductive Health was delivered by Dr. Jamal Abu Sourour, Director of International Islamic Center for Research in Population, University Al Azhar, EGYPT; Indonesian Experience on Islam and RH/FP was presented by Prof. Mohamed Rizal Damanik, Deputy for Training, Research and Development, National Population and Family Planning Board (NPFPPB-BKKBN), Indonesia; Tunisian experience on Islam and Reproductive Health was presented by Prof. Slim Ben Sheikh, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Tunisia.

Following the presentation and discussion of the technical sessions, country experiences and best practices was shared by renowned national experts of the countries such as Jordan, Algeria, Iraq, Mauritania, Sudan, Egypt, Kuwait and Morocco.

Establishment of the Centers of Excellence: Development of the Protocols

The PPD Board, unanimously decided during the 24th Board Meeting held in Tunis and reiterated during the 25th Board Meeting held virtually in 2020 the necessity and importance of the establishment of the Centers of Excellence as the State-of-the-Art institution for continued research and training for capacity building and development of human resource base, stimulating innovations, establishment of partnerships, scaling up and exchange of proven approaches in and among the member countries for efficient and effective priority program implementation. PPD, with assistance of UNFPA, has undertaken the initiative towards establishment of the Centers of Excellence. It was felt that, primarily it is essential to develop a set of Protocols as the essential guideline for the establishment and operation of the SSC Centers of Excellence for achieving expected objectives.

On request to all the member countries, PPD Secretariat received 18 Curriculum Vitae (CVs) from the member countries through the Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs). Two internationally acclaimed consultants from Kenya and Zimbabwe were selected through a meticulous scrutiny with assistance of the UNOSSC and the Chinese Center of Excellence namely China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) to develop the protocols.

The Consultants have already developed the protocols following the internationally established standard procedure and submitted to PPD Secretariat for further actions towards establishment of the Centers of Excellence in collaboration with UNFPA and in consultation with the member countries, in which the institutions will be established gradually.

Capacity Building Workshop for SSC Focal Persons (Partner Country Coordinators – PCC)

PPD in collaboration with UNFPA virtually organized the Capacity Building Workshop for SSC Focal Persons (Partner Country Coordinators – PCC) on 26 and

27 October 2021. At the Introductory Remarks, the Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa mentioned that the workshop is organized with the aim to learn from, exchange with and develop capacities of the PCCs. As a matter of fact, the PCCs are very high-level officials, eminently qualified in their respective field of activities and possesses tremendous capacities to monitor and supervise the successful implementation of their programs focusing on ICPD, SDG and Nairobi Commitments including three transformative zeros. The workshop has been organized to strengthen the strategic oversight, design and implementation of the innovative and result-oriented SSC programs by sharing the successful experiences of other countries, which is one of the fundamental mandates of PPD. Apart from a couple of guest speakers, all the resource persons of the workshop were the PCCs themselves and numerous wonderful ideas and thoughts were emanated from their speeches and presentations, which are very briefly summarized below. However, a separate comprehensive report of the workshop has been prepared and will be made available soon.

The workshop was officially inaugurated by the Kenyan Board and Executive Committee Member and Director-General of NCPD-Kenya Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh. In his inaugural statement, Dr. Sheikh observed that COVID-19 Pandemic profoundly impacted the world economy and human development posing a serious threat to the gains towards attaining the ICPD, SDG and Nairobi Commitment and stressed that the unity, solidarity and friendship generated by South-South Cooperation among nations can mitigate the challenges including that of RH, Population and Development. He added that PCCs are motivating force for promoting SSTC at national, regional and international level and exchanges of ideas and thoughts among them are of paramount importance.



The Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa said that, while the Board Members are the supreme governance authority, PCCs also have significant responsibility in maintaining the governance functional by assisting the Board Members. Additionally, the coordination and advisory roles of the PCCs made them the engine of the organization. Their roles include but not limited to maintaining country commitment to PPD mandates including SSC, networking with PPD Secretariat and other member countries, advocacy, capacity development, training, research, sharing and exchange of information, technologies, experiences and best practices, resource mobilization and national level planning of SSC activities.

Few of the most pragmatic member country initiatives undertaken in successful implementing ICPD, SDGs and Nairobi Commitments including three zeros mentioned by the PCCs as briefed below, which could be important lessons learned for all to improve their programs:

The COVID-19 Pandemic opened the window of opportunities triggering regional and international cooperation in exchanging medicines, protective gears, ambulances, oxygens, other logistics and encouraging member countries to develop and manufacture medicines and vaccines proving SSC as the indispensable blueprint for international cooperation. Post-COVID SSC in RH, Population and Development needed to be aligned with relevant SDGs 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, 5 – Gender Equality and 10 – Reduced Inequalities for improving people's lives.

Mr. Arthur Erken of UNFPA alluded that SSTC produced significant returns of investments, its efficiency and effectiveness achieved positive results by generating knowledge, facilitated domestic financing and increased harmony in peace building among nations. He said that SSTC is a growing movement and UNFPA will continue to apply it as a mode of engagement in programming and will function as one of the critical accelerators for achieving ICPD POA.

UNOSSC South-South Galaxy powered by artificial intelligence provided a global hub systematically and effectively supporting developing countries to connect, learn and collaborate with each other. The Chinese initiatives of reducing costs for childbearing, rearing, educating and achieving appropriate fertility promoting long-term and balanced development of population.

China's health program significantly contributed to its poverty elimination. China's strict compliance of COVID prevention protocol in all MCH Services significantly achieved zero preventable maternal mortality.

The Indian holistic approach of resource mobilization involving strategic planning including ownership, alignment, harmonization, results and mutual accountability promoting and strengthening SSC in RH, Population and Development. Establishment of Health and Wellness Centers under Universal Health Coverage Program through interrelated components are facilitating achievement of Nairobi Summit Commitments.

The Indian NIHFWD PDPHM Program has been strengthening the program managers with the knowledge of Public Health Epidemiology and Bio-Statistics, Health Communication, Health Economics and Financing, Health Technology Assessment and Health Policy Planning which has been yielding significant results.

The South African PED Nexus initiative is addressing the lack of understanding in the interaction among population, environment and development and improving the capacities of the policy makers and program managers to address the issues. South Africa is also proceeding with a National Health Insurance Bill in the Parliament for achieving SRH as part of Universal Health

Coverage. Integrated School Health Program has been introduced for supporting adolescents and youths.

The Indonesian initiative of FP services using short-and-long term contraceptive methods reduced drop-out risks. The National Commission on Violence Against Women significantly reduced the violence practically. The Mid-term Development Plan through Presidential Regulation facilitated population control, strengthened population governance, met basic services and social protection, improved quality of children, women and youth, increased poverty and improved quality of lives of children, women and youth.

Bangladesh PCC Mr. Nitish Sarker informed that Bangladesh Government has prioritized SSC as alternative model for promoting health sector development. He added that Bangladesh National Action Plan for Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP), Post-Menstrual Regulation, Post Abortion Care, PPFP Counselling during ANC and PNC, Delivery Care and EPI Session with focus on LARC and PM, easy availability and accessibility to affordable contraceptives specially in the hard-to-reach areas took Bangladesh programs to the greater heights.

Government of Benin legislative initiative aimed at protecting women and suppressing Violence Against Women making significant achievements in these directions.

For achieving three zeros, The Gambia started providing health education through antenatal care and media outlets, developed and implementing Positive Pregnancy Experience Strategy, established Maternal Death Review Committees, providing Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care, ensured male participation in RH issues, launched free hotline on GBV and established a Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare.

Kenya developed ICPD25 Action Plan 2020-30 containing activities under each of the seventeen SDG commitments including targets, outputs and outcomes, monitoring and evaluation framework supported by resource matrix. Kenya also implementing Multi-sectoral National Actional Plan for ending Teenage Pregnancy at National level.

Nigeria is using the NTF in achieving national commitments made during Nairobi Summit. Making regular media briefing on the urgent need to address the death of young girls due to teenage pregnancy. Nigeria also launched National Advocacy Campaign Against Rate and Gender Based Violence.

Thailand subsidized the long-acting reversible contraceptive services (LARCs) in all women under 20 years who went through pregnancy termination. The National Health Security Office (NHSO) also subsidized safe termination of pregnancy. Thailand developed Maternal Death Surveillance Response, engaged health workforce to administer vaccine to pregnant women and a one-stop crises center with a hotline for achieving three zeros.

Uganda undertaken multipronged programs to achieve Nairobi Commitments including newly emerged crises during COVID-19 such as escalated teenage

pregnancy, early marriage and STIs; gender disparities leading permanent removal from school and negative impacts of educational, economic and health outcomes of the girls.

Zimbabwe developed a comprehensive national SRHR package and integrated into the Universal Coverage strategies, policies and programs. Zimbabwe introduced delivering comprehensive sexuality education program, established One Stop Centers (OSCs) for survivors of GBV and providing all key services under one roof namely Health, Psychological, Legal and Policing Services. Clubbed together, all these separate country initiatives constitute invaluable experiences for achieving the ICPD, SDG, Nairobi ICPD25 Summit Commitments including Three Zeros within 2030.

Capacity Building Workshop on Mainstreaming Youth Engagement in Promoting SSC to respond to COVID-19 Crises for Achieving ICPD Agenda, 13 and 15 December 2021

PPD in collaboration with UNFPA virtually organized a two-day Capacity Building Workshop on “Mainstreaming Youth Engagement in Promoting SSC to respond to COVID-19 Crises for Achieving ICPD Agenda” on 13 and 15 December 2021. The workshop topic for the second day was complimentary to the first day namely “Strengthening Social Media Communication Plan for Youth to Respond COVID-19 through South-South Cooperation”. Opened by PPD Executive Director, the youth leaders from PPD member countries and other developing countries addressed the workshop. It is undeniable fact that, during the entire period of COVID-19, it was the youth health workforce and professionals who provided the health services aggressively to the COVID infected patients and saved numerous lives, while most of the senior health professionals had to maintain safe distance due to their greater vulnerability to be infected by the disease. Salutes and hats-off to the young health workers for their spontaneous and dedicated services to the helpless mankind. Some of the invaluable observations and suggestions made by the youth leaders during the workshop worthy of seriously taking into cognizance. A comprehensive report of the workshop has already been prepared and shared separately through different communication channels.

The PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa in his Opening Remarks said that “the youth aged between 15 to 24 years numbered 1.2 billion across



the world and they cover 60% of the global population, 90% of them are living in developing countries and they are continuously increasing in number. They offer enormous opportunity for a demographic dividend which may lead to accelerated economic growth if appropriate education, healthcare services and employment opportunities are provided by the governments". He added that "South-South cooperation is about solutions that enables successful programs of similar sociocultural context for easy adaptation and implementation elsewhere. Now the challenges that entire humanity is currently facing due to the Pandemic require concerted action, national unity, global solidarity, and meaningful engagement of young people". He announced that "on the occasion of the International Youth Days on 12 August 2022 a Youth Platform will be launched with support to the youth to make more interaction and exchanges". The Youth Leader from Rwanda stated that "the sustainable development can never be achieved if majority of the population is left behind. The ICPD Agenda including Nairobi Commitment will only be achieved if the young people remain at the center. The Youth Leader from Malawi suggested SSC Platform for young people to increasingly utilize social media and other digital platforms to advocate ICPD+25 and SDG Agenda during COVID-19 Crises.



The UNFPA Youth Platform Leader referred to the 2021 UN Women report lamenting that 245 million women and girl as young as 15 years have been subjected to sexual and physical violence perpetrated by intimate partners in one year during the Pandemic, that makes the engagement of youth leadership more important than ever before. The Bangladesh Youth Leader alluded that "partnerships are critical for scaling up the response to global crisis like COVID-19 and South-South and Triangular Cooperation can be powerful tool for the Southern countries to develop solutions best suited to their context. Empowering current generation of young people will produce maximum dividends in the future". The Gambian Youth Leader said that educating girl child has proven to curve teenage pregnancy. Ms. Tahrima Khan of PPD informed that PPD is implementing a reverse linkage project replicating Ghana's successful experience in adolescents sexual and reproductive health in Gambia and Uganda focusing on teenage pregnancy, increasing the uptake of quality, youth friendly and integrated reproductive health and HIV prevention services. The Chinese Youth Leader recommended utilization of the Toolkit developed for youths for engaging in SSC to advocate COVID-19 recovery and guide the youth advocates to make use of social media platforms for achieving ICPD and SDG. The Indonesian Youth Leader suggested that

youth engagement and advocacy efforts should be easy and entertaining and that the efforts of the youths should be adequately appreciated to encourage their increased engagement. The South African Youth Leader advised that social media must have the provision for protection of human rights and guaranteeing freedom of speech. The lady Youth Activist from Bangladesh advised to value adolescents and youths, approach them as equals, respect their views and leverage their added value to help bridge intergenerational divides and promote solidarity between age groups. She added that the governments should formulate appropriate policies for strengthening cybersecurity laws mandatory for preventing misuse of social media that misguides the people. The workshop concluded looking forward to the launching of the Youth Platform for promoting South-South Cooperation.

Consultative Workshops of the National Task Force in 4 Member Countries

PPD with assistance of the Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) organized workshops of the National Task Forces in China, The Gambia, Ghana and Tunisia. Member countries have already shared their workshop reports indicating the resolutions for strengthening the National Task Forces for supporting, follow-up and monitoring the progress of implementing the commitments the countries made at the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit by integrating them into the National Development Plans.

PPD Scholarship Program

Scholarship is a flagship program of PPD started in 1998 and continued uninterrupted till to-date. Some countries provide the scholarship in the areas of their strengths while other countries benefit by sending their professionals to undergo the courses resulting in their academic and technical capacity development, through cost-sharing basis. Presently, Egypt, India and South Africa are providing 7, 10 and 10 scholarships respectively. PPD Secretariat facilitates the entire process of the fellowship courses between the offering and the benefitting countries. While the residential scholarship has become impossible due to the difficulties of travelling to and living in the fellowship offering countries owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the Cairo Demographic Center (CDC) introduced online scholarship through distant learning courses on Population and Sustainable Development. PPD Secretariat obtained six nominations from Bangladesh, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe who availed of the opportunities of distant learning courses from their own countries under the Egyptian scholarship programs. The aim of the diploma is to develop students' skills and expertise in applying multi-disciplinary analytic approaches to population and its relationship to sustainable development.

The one-year scholarship on "Post Graduate Diploma in Population and Policy Analysis (PGDPPA)", offered by the Government of South Africa and imparted by the Northwest University of South Africa in its Mafikeng Campus. In 2021, Government of South Africa offered a ten (10) scholarships to PPD member countries to pursue PGDPPA in south Africa. The five (5) nominated candidates

from the year 2020, who were unable to join the course due to COVID19 Pandemic restriction, will be added to the list of nomination for the 2022 academic year which will bring the number of nominated scholarship recipients to fifteen (15). PPD has received nominations from Bangladesh, China, The Gambia, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Objectives of the course are to build capacity on 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. Due to global Pandemic, this course also will be imparted online and start tentatively early 2022.

The Government of India offers 10 scholarships on “Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM)” offered by the Government of India and the course conducted in National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW). The objectives of the course is to enhance the capacity of the Public Health managerial workforce. In 2021, the course already started from October. From PPD member countries nominated candidates are from the member countries of Bangladesh, Gambia, Kenya, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AMONG THE MEMBER COUNTRIES

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

The Government of China, with assistance of the National Health Commission of China, funded a maternal mortality reduction project titled ***Providing Comprehensive, Safe and Appropriate Intervention to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage for Reducing Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh*** to reduce preventable deaths of the destitute rural mothers during pregnancy and childbirth and achieve the related SDG Goal. PPD was assured that this project would be replicated in other countries, preferably in Africa, subject to the successful implementation of the project in Bangladesh. PPD Secretariat, in collaboration with the project sponsoring agency, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh, along with one of its mainstays implementing



agency, the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), including the Chinese Technical Partner Agency, initiated the project implementation starting early 2020, coinciding with the outbreak of Coronavirus Infection. Despite debilitating restrictions on movements, in-person assemblies and other type of vital activities, the project implementation went on full-swing using virtual platforms and other type of digital communications. As we also know, the actual project activities during implementation significantly increases than they were initially envisaged in the project proposal and related work plans, and this project was no different from that reality.

During the reporting period, PPD Secretariat implemented the very crucial project activities. The Modules for training the implementing field officials for distribution and administration of the medication and hygienic kits were developed with assistance of the leading experts from Bangladesh and China and were finalized after review and endorsement of the Ministry and the DGFP. PPD, DGFP and Chinese Partner Agency selected the expert trainers for conducting the training with technical assistance from the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB), the supreme national agency that provides technical inputs to the policy formulation by the Government of Bangladesh for maternal mortality reduction. Developed necessary monitoring mechanism to monitor and supervise proper distribution of the medicines and the kits. PPD conducted the Baseline Survey aimed at training, distribution and administration of the products with maximum outcomes. Originally planned to be completed in December 2021, the implementation slightly delayed due to perceivable reasons and expected to be completed successfully in 2022.

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. Expressing his happiness and excitement on the development, regulatory approval and supply of the vaccines within the shortest possible time, he fervently appealed the vaccine developing countries for the fastest and equitable distribution of the vaccines to avoid continued suffering and consecutive emergence of new variants of the disease leading to the existential threats to the mankind.

“

“As we all are aware, the Coronavirus Pandemic held the entire world hostage impeding social and economic activities and bringing the human life to near standstill. The virtual “New Normal” could not help maintaining life and livelihood as expected and greater segment of people in developing countries descending into abject poverty and national and global economies are suffering serious setbacks.



The unusually fast development of the vaccines gave the rays of hope to the mankind against the Pandemic. But unexpectedly uneven and unequal distribution of the vaccines to the nations did not yield the expected results. Significant portions of the people particularly in the southern developing countries, especially countries in African Continent, have not yet got access to the vaccines. Consequently, stronger variants of the Pandemic [like DELTA variant] are emerging and others will continue to emerge creating insurmountable existential problem for the mankind.

Sensing the impending danger, the Executive Director in an Audio-Visual Message made a very fervent appeal to the Governments of the Member Countries to bring greater portion of the population under the coverage of the vaccine at the soonest possible to restore socio economic normalcy to the lives of the people. The Executive Director also appealed to the Vaccine Developing Countries to provide vaccines to the developing countries on easier terms under COVAX initiative and arrange regional manufacturing of the vaccines for faster distribution and administration. Most importantly, the Executive Director pleaded to the vaccine developing countries to withdraw the intellectual property rights and transfer the technology so that many countries in different regions can massively manufacture the vaccine for the faster coverage of the entire world. Once the nations are free from the scourge of the Pandemic, the scientific and technological inventions and economic activities will rebound much stronger than ever before leading the world to greater prosperity, peace and happiness”.

”

The video message is available at the following link –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIV-CuCrhO4>

STRENGTHENING NETWORK AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Executive Director Represented PPD in the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum), 17 to 19 March 2021

Launched in 2008, the DG's Forum annually assembles leaders of the organizations promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which is co-organized by UNOSSC, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) brings together leaders from international cooperation agencies and national governments providing an opportunity for them to exchange views on South-South and Triangular Cooperation approaches and methodologies. The Forum is a platform for South-South Cooperation (SSC) that offers an opportunity to make proposals for further mainstreaming South-South and Triangular Cooperation and is open to all interested actors involved in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation.

The 12th Edition of the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum), bringing together the heads of development cooperation agencies and institutions and other partners, was the first one to take place in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. It provided an opportunity for the development cooperation practitioners to take stock of how South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation have performed since the start of the Pandemic. Extensive discussions took place on the importance of stronger institutional arrangements, national ecosystems for South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation. It also provided an opportunity to assess the progress towards implementing the BAPA+40 outcome document and exchange views on ways and approaches to strengthen South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation taking into consideration the new trends and opportunities as well as the evolving challenges that development cooperation may face in the future. With this overall purpose in mind, the UNOSSC, the JICA and the IsDB co-organized the 2021 DG's Forum virtually from 17 to 19 March 2021 under the theme of "***Trends, Opportunities and Challenges on the Path to Sustainable Development: Strengthening South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation in the COVID-19 Context***".

The PPD Executive Director Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa spoke in the Session-2 titled ***Trends, Opportunities and Challenges Posed by the COVID-19 Crisis for South-South and Triangular Cooperation***. Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa said that Partners in Population and Development (PPD) promotes South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation among its current 27 member countries representing more than 60 percent of the world population, working to find solutions to challenging and emerging issues in Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Population and Development. With the aim of promoting its goals through South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, PPD, its member countries and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) annually organize the International Inter-ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in

Population and Development. That forum is a key opportunity for policymakers, leaders, experts and health professionals from governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and development partners to discuss the progress on the implementation of the global health-and-population-related agenda not only among PPD member countries but also other Southern countries

He underscored that the global response to the current Pandemic should be guided by solidarity and strengthening of strategic partnerships. To mitigate the COVID-19 impacts, he emphasized the need to reinforce the exchange and scaling up of good practices, improving capacity development and building resilience; mobilizing domestic and international resources to recover from the Pandemic; and increasing knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and transfer of technologies through the promotion of South-South cooperation in policy responses. PPD made tremendous progress towards the achievement of ICPD+25) held in Nairobi in 2019 and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Adnene emphasized that, in order to fight against the challenges posed by the Pandemic and to continue advancing its global health-and-development agenda, PPD adopted the use of digital technologies to organize virtual exchanges and webinars. It had conducted several virtual activities to share knowledge and practices, with a particular focus on Southern countries in the COVID-19 context. PPD and UNFPA had been successfully organizing the Ministerial Strategic Dialogue namely, Inter-ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation annually. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, PPD organized several webinars focusing on reproductive health, maternal and child health services with the aim of sharing best experiences among PPD member countries. PPD called upon governments and international partners to increase global solidarity and the strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation programs. He particularly emphasized the need to join efforts to mitigate and overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis with the aim of leaving no one behind.

PPD Contribution to WHO Virtual Consultation on South-South Learning Exchange (SSLE) in Family planning, held from 29 to 30 November 2021

On behalf of the Executive Director, PPD Senior Program Officer Ms. Tahrira Khan represented the organization at the WHO virtual consultation on intercountry South- South Learning Exchange (SSLE) in Family Planning held from 29 to 30 November 2021. SSLE is one of the approaches used to improve access to quality FP services, strengthen national FP program and enable countries to reach their SDG goals 3 and 5. The meeting was participated by senior officials from the Ministries of Health, WHO Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices. In addition to five WHO's SSLE supported countries, five WHO Partners, such as, UNFPA, JHPIEGO, BKKBN, PPD and FP-2030 presented their experiences in supporting the promotion of SSLE for improved Family Planning Programs.

Ms. Tahrira Khan presented an overview of the SSLE approaches that PPD uses to support its member countries in improving their Family Planning and

Reproductive Health Services by documenting Best Practices and sharing them with other member countries. She added that PPD has documented, disseminated and published 11 best practices, two of which (from Kenya and Tunisia) have been disseminated globally by sharing in the Galaxy Platform of the UN Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). She stated that PPD shared all the Best Practices with all the Member Countries and working with them for their replication in the similar socioeconomic and cultural context to improve their Family Planning and Reproductive Health programs.

REINFORCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF PPD SECRETARIAT

PPD has been maintaining a very warm relationship with the Embassy of China in Bangladesh specifically engaging them in the implementation of the China SSCAF funded Maternal Mortal Reduction Project. The Embassy has been extremely pleased with the dedication, techniques and pace of implementation of the Project during the difficult time of Coronavirus Pandemic. In order for maintaining the accelerated implementation of the Project and to help improving technical and logistic capacity of the Secretariat, the Chinese Embassy has provided on compliment to the Secretariat 8 LED TV sets, 3 Laptops and 2 Projectors, which mainly strengthened the PPD Conference Hall. Most importantly, the Embassy has also provided a Microbus to the Secretariat, the diplomatic and administrative formalities of which have already been completed by the Secretariat and the vehicle is ready for use in the implementation of the Project. The vehicle has been extremely useful in commuting between Dhaka and project operational areas in the district and sub-district level.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the digital planform has become only the mode of communication and exchanges worldwide including PPD Secretariat and its member countries and development partners. In the context of COVID-19 Pandemic related restrictions on the national and international movement and assemblies, PPD Secretariat strengthened its IT capabilities and conducted all the advocacy, capacity building and governance events including the Ministerial Strategic Dialogues online using ZOOM Platform successfully and flawlessly. For instance, PPD Secretariat virtually organized all the events mentioned above including the Weekly PPD Staff Meeting, Partner Country Coordinators (PCC) Meeting, Executive Committee Meeting, Board Meeting and International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation on Population and Development. The IT Department hosted and facilitated the conduct of the workshops, meetings and conference online and ensured clear visibility, audibility and absolutely avoiding interruption during the progress of events.



The IT Department also continuously ensured that the internet connection of PPD never cease to function impeding the performance of other officials. IT department makes excellent designs and upload into the website all the documents, reports and publications produced by PPD. The IT Department arranges audio-visual dissemination of relevant PPD messages. For instance, PPD Executive Director made a fervent appeal to the member countries and international community to arrange comprehensive vaccination of the entire world population to eliminate the COVID-19 Pandemic and avoid emergence of new variants, the audio-visual development and dissemination of which was made by the IT Department.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

As a result of the extensive communication with the member countries, particularly with the Hon. Board Members and respected Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs), the settlement of the Annual Membership Contributions by the Member Countries has been continuously improving. Some countries even settled several years' outstanding and institutionalized payment of their membership contribution, which from now on would be settled automatically during the fiscal year on receipt of the INVOICE. As proposed by the Executive Director during the 25th Board Meeting held virtually on 18 November 2021, signing of the revised By-Laws by all the member countries, Charter by the Board Chair and Secretary, Development of a Rules of Procedure and instituting a signed Membership Agreement between the Board Chair and the member countries would significantly improve settlement of the membership contribution. Apart from the SSCAF and UNFPA, PPD received a donation of US\$ 21,000 from the Gillespie Foundation, a longstanding partner of PPD. PPD Secretariat has been able to fully reverse the building construction related deficiencies and recovered 75% of the loans taken in 2018 from the Social Security Fund. Despite severe COVID-19 induced restrictions, PPD ensured timely release of the Medicines and Postnatal Care Kits from the shipping line imported under the maternal mortality reduction project funded by the SSCAF of CHINA AID. An important milestone achieved in the year that PPD initiated the online payment system through the bank beginning January 2021 ensuring, along with other previous measures taken greater efficiency and transparency, in the financial management of PPD Secretariat.

PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY PPD AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

The year was characterized by a period of intermittent interruptions and inaction in implementation because of the COVID 19 pandemic and its attendant restrictions that continued to ravage the country and the world at large. A few of the activities that were implemented adopted a hybrid of virtual, alongside physical, meetings. These activities were anchored around three of PPD's strategic thrusts 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 that countries signed onto; and advocating for increased domestic and international funding for RH/FP as well as a conducive policy framework.

The 11th Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) Coordination meeting

PPD ARO, in partnership with AFIDEP, organized the 2021 EARHN meeting which was the 11th in a series. It was a two days virtual meeting, held on May 3rd and 4th on the theme of "Implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 amidst the COVID 19 Pandemic. The first day of the meeting focused on meeting SRH needs in SSA with a focus on preventing unsafe abortion. An overview of the incidence, legality and safety of abortion in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), including an assessment of trends and implications for policies and programs aimed at reducing unsafe abortion in SSA was made. The sessions provided an overview of the incidence of abortion in SSA, including an assessment of trends and implications for policies and programs aimed at reducing unsafe abortion. Evidence on the cost and benefits of fully investing in sexual and reproductive health services on the continent was equally presented.

The second day of the meeting focused on countries' experiences sharing in implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021. In addition, countries shared experiences on implementation of SRH programmes amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. The sessions and discussions that issued thereon provided some useful information that will be pertinent to the successor EARHN Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026. The meeting was honored with the attendance of Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, the Executive Director of PPD, who intervened by making a statement, committing PPD's continued support to providing an endearing space for mutual exchange of best practices and leveraging resources for facilitating SSC in the region. The meeting was moderated by Dr Jotham Musinguzi, the Director General of the National Population Council of Uganda and facilitated by Dr Eliya Zulu, Executive Director of AFIDEP and Dr. Akinrinola Bankole, a Senior Fellow at Guttmacher Institute.

The Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting: 27-29 October 2021

PPD ARO and partners organizes meetings of the NEAPACOH held every year, since 2008. The main objectives of the NEAPACOH meetings are: to share progress and lessons learned regarding implementation of the reproductive health/family planning related commitments; to build the capacity of policy makers to contribute to enhanced accountability, leadership and stewardship for the implementation of the ICPD PoA and achievement of the SDGs on the continent.



On 28 and 29 October 2021, PPD ARO, in conjunction with NEAPACOH and partners, organized a two days meeting on the theme: "Sustained Programs for the Achievement of ICPD Goals and the SDGs - The Role of Parliamentarians". Sixteen countries, of which 8 are PPD member countries, attended the meeting. The countries included: Benin, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, UK, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting was preceded by a virtual Pre-Conference on 27th October 2021 on the subjects of TB & Lung Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs in Sub-Saharan Africa focusing on Preventing Unsafe Abortion supported by the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) in close partnership with the International Multidisciplinary Programme to address Lung Health & TB in Africa (IMPALA) and the Guttman Institute.



The Deputy Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Committee of Health Hon. Joel Ssebikaali presided over the proceedings of the first day while his counterpart from Lesotho, and equally chairperson of NEAPACOH, Hon. Fako Moshoeshe presided the second day's deliberations. Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomansi, Minister of ICT and National Guidance gave the official opening remarks and recognized all dignitaries physically present and those online including; members of Parliament, Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, the Executive Director of PPD, Ms. Suzanne Mandang, UNFPA Uganda Country Representative a.i, Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, the Director-General, National Population Council and Dr. Patrick Kadama, the Key Note Speaker as well as the Executive Director,

African Institute for Development Policy, Prof. Eliya Zulu. Mr. Adnene, made a statement at the opening of the meeting pledging a commitment by PPD to continue providing opportunities for promotion of South to South cooperation in the context of implementation of ICPD and achievement of the SDGs. The meeting

endorsed the "Kampala Call to Action - 2021" with a strong commitment to accelerate the achievement of the unfinished agenda of the ICPD goals and SDGs during and post COVID-19 Pandemic through South-South Cooperation. Participants pledged to continue providing leadership and stewardship on policy, legislation and perform budgetary oversight for reproductive health and family planning as well as promoting and supporting mobilization and general awareness on reproductive health and family planning in the context of implementation of the ICPD agenda.



East Africa Region experience sharing and learning meeting on the FP2030 Commitments: Entebbe 4-7 October 2021

Since 2012, Governments, multilateral organizations, Civil Society, private sectors and research entities have collaborated towards the ambitious goal of enabling 120 million additional women and girls to use modern contraception by 2020. The different east African countries were at different levels of review and development of the



FP2030 commitments. There was need for South-to-South Learning to improve the commitment making process and have a regional perspective of the understanding of the FP2030 transitional team guidance. It is upon this background that PPD ARO and RHU, the AFP Uganda project partners organized an East African region + Zambia meeting to share experiences and learn from each other on the road to FP2030 commitments. The meeting brought together participants from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda. The main purpose of the meeting was a south-to-south learning and experience sharing and strengthening collaborations between partners on the FP2030 the processes: review, development and implementation FP2030 commitments in the four countries.

The specific objectives of the regional consultative meeting were to get a sense of the lessons learned from the review of FP2020 and best practices going into FP2030 partnership, to learn new approaches and strategies adopted by countries, gauge how countries have harmonized the FP2030 commitments with other national regional and global initiatives where commitments were made (ie SDGs, ICPD+25, EWEK Global Strategy, UHC) as well as identify strategies for funding and implementing the FP accountability mechanisms. The meeting took place on 4th-7th October 2021 at Admas Grand Hotel Entebbe and was opened by Dr Jotham Musinguzi, Director General

National Population Council and Dr. Dinah Nakiganda Busiku, the Assistant Commissioner - Adolescent and School Health from the Ministry of Health, Uganda. The official closing remarks were made by Ms Liz Bayer from AFP Baltimore and Hon. Dr. Charles Ayume Chair, Uganda Parliamentary Health Committee. The meeting contributed to strengthened roles of the various FP partners' advocacy and accountability for the FP2030 commitments as well as sharing of knowledge among participating countries on the development process of the FP2030 commitments.

Canadian Conference on Global Health:

The Programme Manager participated as a panelist at a virtual Canadian Conference on Global Health which was themed on: "Linking Evidence to informed policies and practices". The conference was held on June 3, 2021. The Manager shared experiences on aspects of linking researchers with policy makers and how evidence uptake has influenced decision making in developing and implementing maternal, child health including family planning programmes in SSA.

Sub national advocacy work in Uganda:

Through the course of the year, PPD ARO implemented the Advance Family Planning (AFP) initiative whose major aim is achieving the Uganda national FP2020 commitments. In Uganda, the AFP initiative is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and implemented by PPD ARO and Reproductive Health Uganda. The specific objectives of the initiative are to implement advocacy activities for increased financing of FP programmes; addressing policy barriers that constrain FP uptake; and raising the visibility of FP at national and subnational levels. During the period in reference, PPD ARO was up and running and conducted several advocacy meetings with Uganda Districts' political and technical leaderships aimed at strengthening the FP advocacy committees to sustain the momentum for advocacy for FP. The leaderships of the various districts where these meetings are held have always committed to allocate resources for the functioning of the advocacy committees as well as ensuring an enabling environment for programmes implementation. In order to ensure sustainability of FP advocacy work, the district leadership further committed to integrate the activities of the District FP Advocacy working Group in the district work plans and budgets.



Family photo of Kabale district Family Planning Advocacy Working Group



PPD ARO and participants at districts FP Advocacy working Group sustainability meetings in various districts. These meetings are attended by district top administrative officials, CSOs implementing FP/RH, religious and cultural leaders as well as media and other stakeholders

AFP Annual Program – Work Plan and SMART Charting Retreat: 12-18 Dec 2021

The AFP Uganda Initiative Organizations PPD ARO and RHU organize on an annual basis AFP portfolio based SMART charting retreats to build consensus on the advocacy objectives to be pursued in the subsequent year as well as develop SMART strategies for the agreed objectives. The weeklong activity that brought together participants from fourteen partner organizations took place in 12-18 December 2021 at Kyangabi Crater Lake Resort Hotel in Western Uganda.



Implementation of Population Action International (PAI) Grants:

During the period, PPD ARO continued providing leadership and oversight in the implementation of two grants from PAI: one on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and a multi-year project on FP-UHC analysis and advocacy on national UHC financing policies in Uganda, Kenya, India, Ghana and Burkina Faso. The grant focuses on SRHR civil society organization engagement in health financing policy reforms to landscape the UHC policy environment and advocate for the prioritization of FP in the policymaking process. The second grant focused on activities of the RMNCAH+N CSO Platform for strengthening coordination and advocacy for effective GFF implementation. PPD ARO was able to successfully coordinate efforts for implementation of advocacy interventions that resulted into Parliament of Uganda approving the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill, 2019. PPD ARO kept at the centre stage in building the capacity of Parliamentarians on the subject, published advocacy and issue briefs on the bill and organized a series of media engagement activities. The bulk of activities during the period centred on conducting meetings with key stakeholders drawn from government, civil society, researchers, the academia, and religious leaders to develop advocacy strategies for engaging the President to assent to the bill so that it becomes a law. Success and celebration with this bill on health Insurance has however been mitigated by the President decision to send back the bill to its framers (Ministry of Health) for further consultations and retabling to Parliament for debating afresh. There were several pockets of resistance regarding the national health insurance scheme whom PPD ARO together with support from AFP and PAI is rallying partners to keep at the forefront of seeing to it that the law is passed as the earliest possible timing.

The final grant activity of the year under the PAI grants was within the aegis of the celebrations of the UHC day. In Uganda the commemorations were held under the same theme of leaving no one's health behind with specific objectives of providing an accountability platform to review the country's progress, opportunities, gaps, and bottlenecks towards achieving universal health coverage, to draw commitments from different stakeholders including policy makers, to accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage. The

occasion would also serve to explore modalities for strengthening CSO collaboration and coordination for UHC advocacy in Uganda. The Members of Parliament at the function made far reaching commitments including seeing to it that the passing, once again of the National Health Insurance scheme is fast tracked.



As the UHC advocacy environment in Uganda changed especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the President's change of opinion about the National Health Insurance Scheme as well as the long electoral period in the country, PPD ARO through partnerships with other like-minded stakeholders, adapted media engagement efforts in a multi-pronged approach targeting both the public as well as the decision makers on the benefits and urgency of the NHIS. This was done through organizing television and radio talk shows by invitation champions and targeted panelists. The discussions had far reaching echo in the wider listenership and viewership in public and influenced decision makers action.



Hon. Dr. Michael Bukenya, the outgoing chairperson of the Uganda Parliament Committee of Health giving a general overview of the health policy environment and perspectives to achieving Affordable Healthcare during the national celebrations to mark the 2021 UHC Day. In the picture Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, the Director-General, National Population Council and Sheikh Muhammad Ali Waiswa, Deputy Mufti, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council.



A cross section of participants: Ministry of Health and CSO representatives, Parliamentarians and Media on the occasion of the celebrations of the International UHC Day in Kampala – Dec 2021



Within the same framework of implementing the PAI-UHC grant project, PPD ARO Programme Officer, Achilles Kiwanuka (2nd from Left) was invited to participate in the Kenya Editor's Guild Annual Convention that took place on December 2 – 4, 2021 in Naivasha, Kenya at the Great Rift Valley Lodge. The main objective of this convening was to participate in the PAI sponsored panel moderated centred on sharing advocacy experiences from Uganda for the National Health Insurance Bill and coordination between civil society as well as participating in a media and communications training focusing on engaging journalists and meeting editors from different countries.

Reducing high fertility rates and Improving Sexual reproductive health outcomes in Uganda' programme (RISE)

PPD ARO is a consortium member of the 5-year RISE programme which began in November 2018 with the goal of increasing the uptake of modern contraceptive use in seven major regions of Uganda. PPD ARO was incorporated as a consortium member in September 2021. The RISE consortium is led by MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI) and comprises of the following partners: Reach a Hand Uganda (RAHU), FHI 360, Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) and Population Media Center (PMC). The programme is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In the consortium, PPD ARO is responsible for implementing advocacy activities aimed at finalizing and approving the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) policy, the Adolescent Health (ADH) Policy and ensuring that at least 50% of the budget for Reproductive Health in Uganda is ring fenced for FP. During the period September to December 2021, PPD ARO organized and spearheaded several high-level meetings with the Ministry of Health key leads and stakeholders aimed at preparing a roadmap of milestones for finalization and approval of the two policies in subject.



Hon. Dr. Michael Bukenya, former chairperson of the committee on health of Parliament of Uganda presiding over a consultative meeting on the formulation and adoption of the Adolescent Health and SRHR policies in Uganda



PPD ARO led engagements and advocacy activities with policy makers aimed at finalizing and approving of the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) policy, the Adolescent Health (ADH) Policy and ensuring that at least 50% of the budget for Reproductive Health in Uganda is ring fenced for Family Planning

AFP Uganda local partner organizations Advocacy and resource mobilization training workshop: Entebbe – November 2021

The AFP initiative implementing organizations in Uganda; Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) and Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPDARO) organized a three days residential workshop to train their beneficiary and co-implementing partners in Uganda in advocacy and resources mobilization. The training was organized in Entebbe at the Imperial Golf Course Hotel from the 16th – 18th November 2021. The training which brought together participants from different regions of the Country was essentially meant to share results from the organizational and advocacy capacity assessment, share skills in developing and implementing advocacy strategies in their respective organizations and reinforcing advocacy and resource mobilization skills in the respective organizations. This workshop was preceded by a far-reaching capacity assessment visitation program by consultants to each of the organizations to assess internal capacity in areas of governance, financial and human resources management as well as programme and performance management.

PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY PPD CHINA PROGRAM OFFICE

Despite the impediments posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, PPD China Program Office (PPD China) continued to promote the South-South Cooperation (SSC) in the field of population and development through, among others, organization of an online seminar hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and National Health Commission of China, with the constant guidance and support from PPD Secretariat, National Health Commission including the assistance from the domestic and international partners.

As a PPD platform in China mandated to promote South-South Cooperation through knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening of the member countries other developing countries and organizations in the field of population and development. PPD China maintains very high level of vigilance in assimilating a set of essential elements, such as, safety, security and conducive working atmosphere to ensure the success of its activities. With great support from National Health Commission, Ministry of Commerce and Taicang Municipal Government, PPD China has been able to organize each international activity impeccably with high-level of professionalism and desired outcomes. All the participants and resource persons attending the events have highly commended the superior professional and efficient services including great organizing ability of PPD China Program Office to better serve the developing countries and international organizations in the field of population and development.

Seminar on Better Maternal and Child Healthcare for Developing Countries

Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce and National Health Commission, a Seminar on Better Maternal and Child Healthcare for Developing Countries was successfully organized from 18 to 31 May 2021 in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, China. The seminar brought together 26 participants engaged in managing maternal and child health care services from 5 developing countries to deliberate on the topic. The participants acquired better understanding of China's experiences, policy and decision making, legislative provisions, program design and implementation process including successes achieved in Maternal, Child Health Care and RH, following inhouse deliberation and practical observation of 8 relevant programs including Clinical Health Care Services for Children and Health Care for the Newborn, Pregnancy and Childbirth Care, Management of Maternal and Child Service Institution during COVID-19 Period.

Conclusion

It is worth mentioning that PPD China has accumulated a wealth of experience after facilitating and managing a series of international capacity building, knowledge sharing and research programs in the field of reproductive health, population and development. PPD China is committed to continue working with National Health Commission of China in hosting international seminars and training programs to develop capacity and deepen cooperation and solidarity among PPD Member Countries, other developing countries and international development partners, cultivate new ideas and address emerging issues to improve the health and well-being of the developing countries.



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

**An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation**