

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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

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An Overview of the Year 2024

The Annual Report 2024 of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) presents a comprehensive overview of the organization's achievements in promoting Reproductive Health, Reducing Maternal Mortality, and Advancing Adolescent Health across its 27 Member Countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). Key initiatives included the Reverse Linkage Project in Uganda and Zimbabwe, replicating Ghana's Best Practice "Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Model"; the SSCAF Project in Bangladesh, which enhanced maternal care through misoprostol distribution and PPH training; and the successful hosting of the 21st International Inter-Ministerial Conference (ICPD30) in Dhaka, where countries adopted the Dhaka Declaration. PPD also convened its 39th Executive Committee and 27th Board Meeting, aligning its strategy with the SDGs, and actively participated in global platforms such as the Summit for the Future, World Population Day, and NEAPACOH 2024. Looking ahead, PPD aims to expand SSTC initiatives, scale policy reforms, increase investments in Reproductive Health, Gender Equality, and Global Partnerships - solidifying its role as a leading force in shaping inclusive, sustainable population and development outcomes.

About PPD

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an Inter-Governmental Organization dedicated to advancing Reproductive Health and Population Development through the promotion of South-South Cooperation. By fostering inter-country solidarity, technical collaboration, and high-level advocacy, knowledge exchange, best practice dissemination, and capacity building at all levels. Secretariat in Dhaka, with Regional Offices in China and Uganda and a Permanent Observer Office (UN) in New York, PPD has grown from 10 founding members in 1994 to 27 members representing 60% of the Global Population. Recognized by the UN as a unique model of South-South Cooperation, PPD continues to work closely with UNFPA (Exco-Officio), as its long-standing partner, to implement the ICPD Programme of Action. Regardless of The Global Challenges - including the COVID-19 pandemic, financial instability, and declining international health aid - PPD's role has become vital. It accelerates South-South Cooperation as a sustainable and strategic alternative to support countries to maximize domestic investments and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Vision and Mission of PPD

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VISION

“To promote South-South cooperation for attaining the global population and reproductive health agenda for sustainable development.”

“

MISSION

“To materialize the 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 Interventions

Six strategic interventions have been identified for achieving the strategic priorities 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:

Evidence-based policy advocacy for more political commitment to achieve ICPD and SDGs.

Institutionalize the International Inter- Ministerial Conference on South- South Cooperation in Population and Development.

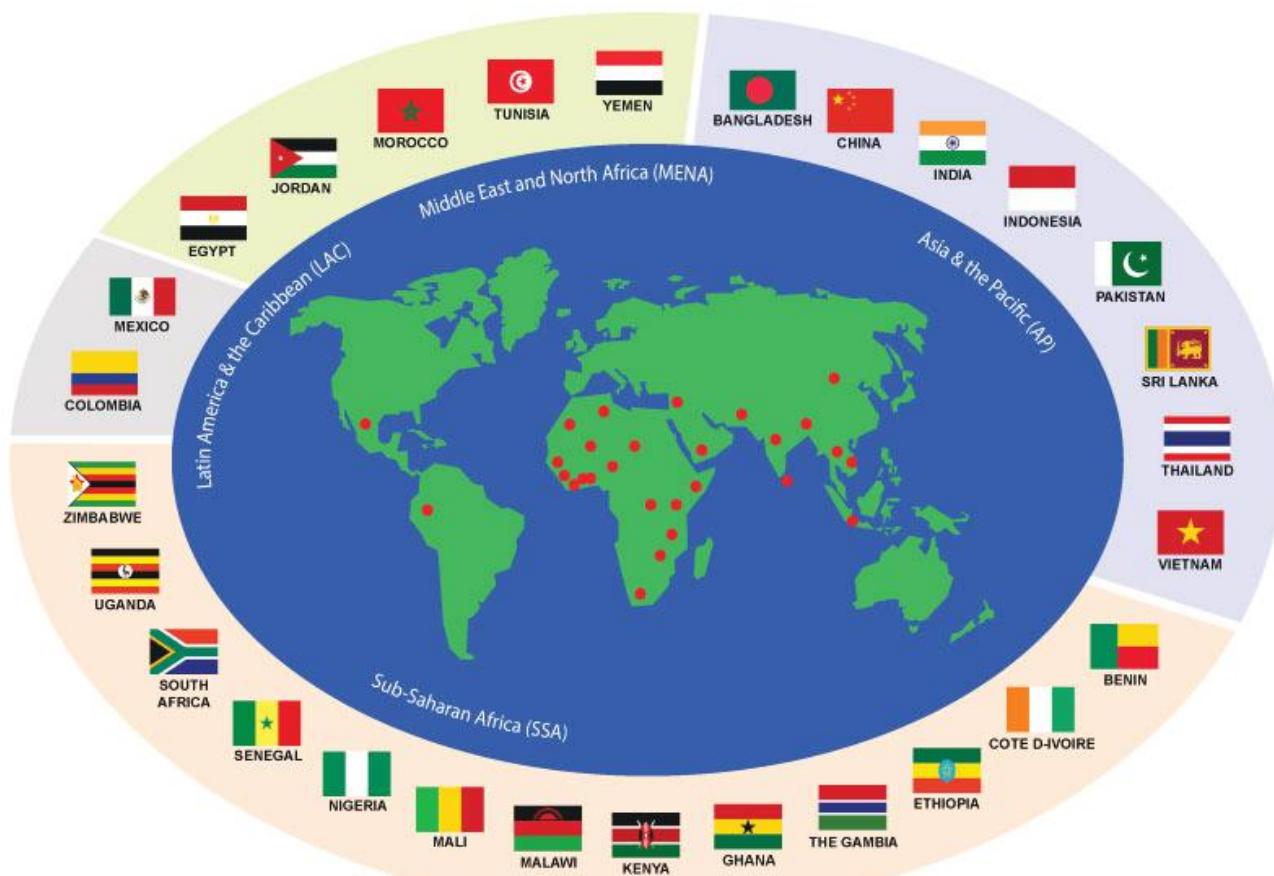
Knowledge management, experience sharing and pilot initiatives.

Capacity building and technical cooperation

Creation of South- South Cooperation Centers of Excellence

Creation of South- South Cooperation Centers of Excellence

The Geographical Coverage of PPD Member Countries:



PPD's Partners:



Message from the Officer in Charge (OIC)

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present this 2024 annual report. The year 2024 was a landmark in many respects, reflecting the resilience, innovation, and collective determination of PPD to deliver her mandate as a leader of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in the field of population and development among the PPD member and other developing countries. Our dedication to promoting SSC continued to be the anchor and driving force for the design and implementation of programmes at PPD.



During the year, PPD was alive to ensuring that impactful practices and innovations that bear on the health of mothers, girls, children and adolescents are shared. Through the programme on replication of Ghana's adolescent reproductive health best practices in Uganda and Zimbabwe, we advanced the frontiers of existing practices for strengthening youth-friendly services and showcasing community engagement tactics that are cost effective. In Bangladesh, with the support of China, and through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF), we made significant strides in contributing to reduction of maternal mortality by training hundreds of health providers, and promoting the use of misoprostol to prevent postpartum hemorrhage. These initiatives exemplify the power of knowledge-sharing and adaptation across borders.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) remain foundations to enable people live full and healthy lives in ways that enable them to contribute to prosperous, equitable and sustainable societies. When women and adolescent girls can access quality SRHR information and services, and have decision-making power to exercise their rights, they can effectively attend to their well-being and that of their families and communities. The 2024 annual report highlights significant barriers that constrain access to SRHR that were highlighted during the PPD organized flagship forums for SSC. These include under-funding and fragmentation of health services, weak social and education systems, limited access to high-quality information and services related to SRHR and harmful socio-cultural norms and beliefs.

The 2024 report makes a stark reminder of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted by Member States of the United Nations in 2015, with the third goal of the agenda focusing on health – good health and well-being – and the attainment of universal health coverage (UHC) as its core target. The idea around UHC is that everyone should have access to the healthcare they require, without facing financial hardship or other obstacles that make using those services difficult. The Report recognizes that while a lot has been achieved, there is still a lot of work that needs to

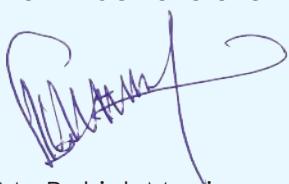
be done to ensure that PPD member countries build and strengthen the health systems' capacities to deliver quality and affordable health services to everyone, everywhere, especially the most vulnerable. There is also need to ensure availability of essential medicines and other medical products to everyone without suffering financial hardship.

On the global stage, PPD successfully convened the 21st International Inter-Ministerial Conference (ICPD30) in Dhaka, bringing together 27 member countries to reaffirm their commitments to SSC under the rubric of the Dhaka Declaration. The backdrop of the commitments was that ICPD Programme of Action, adopted by 179 countries in 1994, remains a landmark commitment to place individual rights, reproductive health, gender equality, and sustainable development at the center of national development strategies. The ICPD Agenda has ushered important changes and reshaped policies and programs addressing Women's Reproductive Health, including Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and development. However, challenges still remain in some member countries. These include; high Total Fertility Rate, high incidences of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, high maternal mortality rates, high infant mortality rates, low contraceptive use, unmet reproductive health needs, among many others.

PPD also hosted the 39th Executive Committee and 27th Board Meeting, which charted new directions for robust and dynamic PPD governance, strengthening partnerships for implementation, scaling up successful programs, and aligning our efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our engagement at the Summit for the Future 2024 and continued dialogue with strategic partners such as UNFPA and UNOSSC underscored PPD's leadership role in shaping global population and development policies.

The progress we have made in 2024 would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our member countries, the dedication of our national task forces, and the strong collaboration with our partners, particularly UNFPA. As we look ahead, PPD remains steadfast in its mission to leverage SSC as a catalyst for progress. With growing demographic diversity, evolving global challenges, and the urgent need for inclusive development, our collective work is more vital than ever.

I am confident that with continued solidarity, innovation, and partnership, we will achieve even greater milestones in the years to come.



Mr. Patrick Mugirwa
Officer-in-Charge
Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

1. Knowledge Management, Experience Sharing, and Pilot Initiatives

1.1. Innovations through the Reverse Linkage Project in Advancing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) in Uganda and Zimbabwe.

This Reverse Linkage project was designed based on the Ghana's best practices on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) which was documented as best practices by PPD along with other best practices from different PPD member countries. Government of Uganda and Zimbabwe as recipient countries imported the knowledge from Ghana through PPD to strengthen ASRH programs in their countries.

Impact and Results: Ghana ASRH Best Practice Replication in Luwero District, Uganda

In 2022–2024, Luwero District, Uganda, undertook the replication of Ghana's best practices in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) through a multi-sectoral and community-driven approach. This initiative aimed to improve adolescent health outcomes by integrating ASRH services into schools, communities, and health systems.

The implementation of Ghana's Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) model in Uganda's Luwero District has led to notable improvements in adolescent health service delivery and awareness. Key outcome includes the training of focal health professionals, the establishment of youth-friendly clinics, the integration of SRH education in over 20 schools, and the empowerment of peer educators and the adolescent



Campaign. 32,000 condoms were distributed, and safe spaces like the DREAMS project equipped vulnerable girls with life skills, vocational training, and HIV prevention tools. Community dialogues challenged harmful norms, while media campaigns enhanced public understanding of adolescent SRH issues. Despite challenges such as cultural resistance, limited resources, and access barriers, the initiative demonstrated strong demand for services, fostered community support, and showcased how South-South Cooperation can generate sustainable and impactful solutions for adolescent wellbeing in underserved settings.

Impact and Results: Ghana ASRH Best Practice Replication in Hopley, Harare; Zimbabwe

In July 2023, the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC), with support from Partners in Population and Development (PPD) Secretariat, implemented a comprehensive

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) outreach initiative in Hopley, Harare. The project targeted young people aged 10–24 years, delivering life-saving services and reproductive health education through clinics, school engagement, and community outreach.

The Hopley outreach initiative in Zimbabwe, implemented through South-South Cooperation, significantly enhanced adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) services and awareness in an underserved urban setting. By introducing updated MIS tools, targeted capacity building of teachers and peer educators, youth-friendly outreach clinics, and interactive reproductive health education sessions. The program reached over 600 young people with essential SRHR information. It provided services to 141 adolescents, like family planning, HIV testing, STI and achieved 86% of its outreach target. The initiative led to increased youth engagement, improved service uptake, and greater behavioral change through education on safe sex and consent. Despite challenges such as limited session time and stigma around certain screenings, the program demonstrated measurable impact and sustainability by empowering local educators, strengthening trust in youth-focused health systems, and fostering long-term reproductive health awareness among adolescents.



2. Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

2.1 “Providing Safe, Comprehensive and Appropriate Intervention to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage for Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh”

The project aims to prevent postpartum hemorrhage and reduce maternal mortality in the recipient country. Partners in Population and Development (PPD), the Ministry of Health BD, and the China National Research Institute for Family Planning (NRIFP) worked together to analyze factors influencing maternal mortality and improve PPH prevention. The project targets rural areas, particularly where home delivery is prominent. The main driver for the project's success is effective monitoring and the use of Chinese technology in clinical practice, including misoprostol. The project aims to improve medical workers' skills and knowledge in using misoprostol for preventing postpartum hemorrhage.

Through the provision of adequate and safe measures to prevent postpartum hemorrhage, the initiative seeks to lower maternal mortality in the recipient country. The project outcome

emphasized the main reasons influencing maternal mortality and the current situation to prevent the maternal mortality rate. The project used Chinese experience and technology to provide related IEC, drug/product/equipment, and comprehensive intervention measures. This project advocated using misoprostol to prevent postpartum hemorrhage and improve medical workers' skills and knowledge. The clinical specifications and guidelines were developed to reduce maternal mortality rates and improve reproductive health. Also, A comprehensive set of interventions has been formed, and the maternal mortality rate has already been reduced by applying these models.

Important Achievements: Expert meetings, medical professional training, misoprostol and kit distribution in project regions, production of modules in Bangla, development of IEC materials with NRIFP assistance, and training of family planning and health professionals in project areas. Approximately 270 medical health service providers from the Six Upazilas participated in the training on misoprostol-assisted postpartum hemorrhage prevention. The Training and Meeting on Institutional Delivery and Uses of Tab Misoprostol to Prevent PPH at Satellite Level to Reduce Maternal Mortality drew in close to 600 participants, including youth (students), community mobilizers, union parson members, upazila chairs, and expectant mothers and their guardians.

Stakeholders involved in the project: Director General of Family Planning (DGFP), partner agency China National Research Institute for Family Planning (NRIFP), and project participants are the main stakeholders in the project.

Beneficiaries: Providers of family planning and health services, including doctors, FWVs, FWAs.

Six days of training at Six Upazila in Manikganj and Gazipur:

Partners in Population and Development (PPD), along with the Director General of Family Planning, organized 12 Training and Workshops in Manikganj and Gazipur, Bangladesh. The major focus was on institutional delivery and the use of Tab Misoprostol to prevent postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) at the satellite level to reduce maternal mortality. The very discussion topics on these six days of training were:

Background and Concept of Postpartum Hemorrhage	Epidemiological Hemorrhage	Reason for Postpartum Hemorrhage	Risk Factors and High-risk Groups of Postpartum Hemorrhage
How Postpartum Hemorrhage affects the Mother and the newborn.	Prevention Principles of Postpartum Hemorrhage (Including Referral Mechanism)	Treatment Method of Postpartum Hemorrhage	Evaluation of Postpartum Hemorrhage
Importance of Institutional Delivery	The pharmacological effect of misoprostol to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage	Assessment of Various Postpartum Hemorrhage Treatment Methods	Clinical Application Conditions of Misoprostol to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage
Contraindication Postpartum Hemorrhage	The procedure of Misoprostol to Prevent Postpartum Hemorrhage	Precautions for Postpartum Hemorrhage	Use of Postnatal Care Kits.

Impact of the Project Implementation:

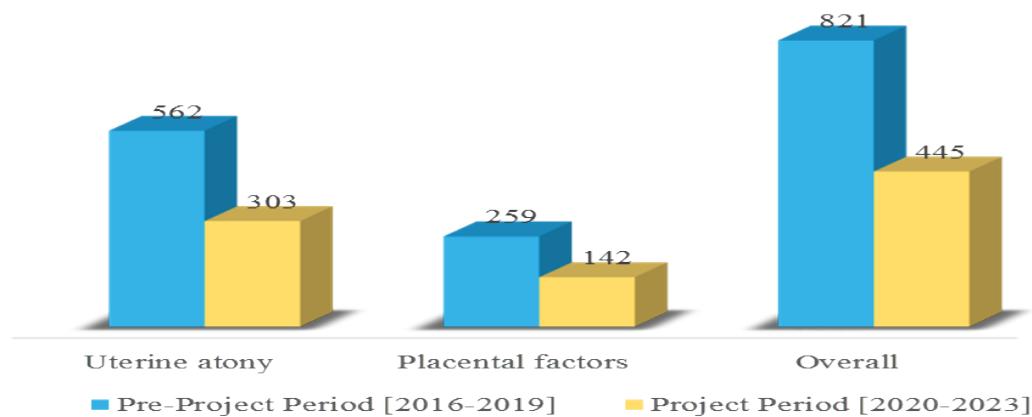
Considering the overall project implementation, the postpartum hemorrhage cases (combining uterine atony and placental factors), the average during the pre-project period was 205 ± 36.1 , with a range of 180 to 258. In the project period, the average number of total postpartum hemorrhage cases decreased substantially to 111 ± 66.7 , with a range of 50 to 197. The p-value of 0.012 indicates reduction is statistically significant. This indicates a positive impact of the early use of misoprostol on reducing total postpartum hemorrhage cases.

Table 1. Summary statistics of the postpartum hemorrhage during the pre-project and project period

Postpartum Hemorrhage Indicators	Average \pm SD [Min, Max] in Pre-project Period [2016-2019]	Average \pm SD [Min, Max] in Project Period [2020-2023]	P-value
Uterine atony	141 ± 32.8 [112, 186]	76 ± 48.6 [32, 139]	0.006
Placental factors	65 ± 6.6 [57, 72]	36 ± 18.1 [18, 58]	0.041
Overall	205 ± 36.1 [180, 258]	111 ± 66.7 [50, 197]	0.012

The comparison between the pre-project and project periods demonstrates a substantial reduction in the total numbers of uterine atony, placental factors, and overall postpartum hemorrhage cases (Figure 1). These findings suggested that the early use of misoprostol had a positive impact on reducing complications related to postpartum hemorrhage, contributing to improving maternal mortality.

Figure 1. Total number of cases- uterine atony, placental factors, and overall PPH during pre- and project-period



The statistical analysis reveals that the early use of misoprostol significantly contributed to reducing the incidence of both uterine atony and placental factor-related postpartum hemorrhage cases. The qualitative assessment proved that China Aid tremendously contributed to both stakeholders and the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries (Pregnant Mother, Health care provider) were equipped with knowledge improvement, awareness building on how to use misoprostol, distribution, and follow-up with the pregnant mother. Those follow-up improved PNCs and reduced delivery risks. Moreover, the Production of training modules, guidelines, the development of misoprostol management protocol, IEC materials, and drama using the expertise of experts from China and Bangladesh were the tangible contributions of the projects. During the interview, the providers' opinions were noted, which also proved the effective impact of the SSCAF project (see below boxes).

Case Stories

"It is quite challenging for me to obtain Oxi-Toxin in an emergency because I don't have a pharmacy or a refrigerator nearby to preserve it. For this reason, the Misoprostol Tablet is my lifesaver. Since I worked in a remote area and occasionally expectant mothers couldn't see me during their EDD time, I also distributed this tablet to the pregnant mother along with instructions. It is simple to preserve, and they do not require injection; even the family members feel safe with this tablet. I do favor giving this medication to expectant mothers to improve and ensure safe delivery."

- FWV, Ataboho, Kaliakoir, Gazipur.

"When the pregnant mother comes, Doctors and FWVs consult with the mother regarding all the factors of PPH. Once a patient came at midnight with severe pain, the case was on Placental Factor, suddenly bleeding started, and the flow was unstoppable, but instantly after delivery, we used misoprostol and gave massage, then finally we managed to save the patient. (Back in 2020)."

- Hatipara, Manikganj

"We were not much aware of misoprostol at that time, so the patient was at high PPH risk. Then we referred her to Sadar Hospital because she needed Anesthesia. But now we know how misoprostol works effectively. We have enough supply from PPD and the Government, so we use misoprostol in this kind of case" (Back in 2017).

- Baliai, Manikganj

SSCAF Project Field Visit 3. High Level Events and Advocacy



Short Drama



Live Consultation given by FPO



Public Awareness by Leaflet (1)



Public Awareness by Leaflet (2)



Experts Meeting



Practical Training at Mohammadpur Fertility Center



Practical Training at Sylhet Division



Practical Training at Rajshahi Division



Data Collection from Six upazilas (1)



Data Collection from Six upazilas (2)



Data Collection from six Upazilas (3)

3. High-level Events and Advocacy Activities

3.1. The 21st International Inter-Ministerial Conference on Population and Development

The world is facing an unprecedented convergence of challenges - including pandemics, shortages in health commodities, fragile health systems, rapid ageing, the climate crisis, food insecurity, and a global financing crisis - there is an urgent need to accelerate progress in delivering health services and achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 30) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In response to that, PPD Board Members convened with global leaders, including UN agencies and other organizations, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The 21st International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in Population and Development - a high-level forum brought together ministers, policymakers, UN agencies, and regional stakeholders to discuss how SSTC can drive the advancement of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 21st IIMC provided an opportunity to review the progress made by PPD member states in implementing ICPD commitments through South-South Cooperation. The conference highlighted key achievements, emerging challenges, and renewed commitments for collective action to move forward.

- Explore Demographic Change** – Understanding the impact of population dynamics on sustainable development.
- Commitment towards Sustainable Development** – Strengthening global resilience and sustainability while ensuring that development meets both present and future needs.
- Advocating for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)** – Promoting universal health coverage to safeguard sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) for all.
- Enhancing Partnerships** – Facilitating Capacity Building, Technology Transfer, and Knowledge Sharing among member countries.
- Strengthening Cooperation** – Promoting collective action to address demographic shifts and SDG targets, including ICPD PoA.

Outcomes and Impact of the Conference

High-level participation from PPD's 27 member countries, representing over 60% of the global population.

Strategic discussions on leveraging demographic dividends, addressing population aging, and ensuring youth empowerment in sustainable development strategies.

Commitments to expand investment in reproductive health services, gender equality, and universal health coverage to promote inclusive growth.

Strengthening partnerships between governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to foster innovation and knowledge exchange.

Key Highlights of the Conference:

SESSION ONE: Grand Opening Ceremony

Welcome Remarks by **Dr. Ashrafi Ahmed, NDC (on behalf of Dr. Samanta Lal Sen), PCC of PPD and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh.** Her Excellency demonstrates Bangladesh's achievements. Bangladesh attained 7% average GDP growth, crossing the lower-middle-income threshold in 2015 and meeting all criteria for graduation out of LDC status. She emphasized Vision 2041, which that adopted by the Government of Bangladesh. That is a continuation of Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021 and seeks to take the nation on the development path. Evidence shows considerable progress was made in the population health and nutrition area in Bangladesh. As a result, the population growth has decreased to 1.2%. Life expectancy increased to 72.3 years in 2018, ahead of the target of 70 years. Moreover, she articulated the achievements and indicators related to maternal and infant mortality. She emphasizes that we have a long way to go to improve maternal and infant health



Keynote Speech by Ms. Diene Keita, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations; Deputy Executive Director - Programme, UNFPA.

Her Excellency, Ms. Diene Keita, through her emphasizes that SSTC will remain focused on the aim of the process and suggests how SSTC was established 40 years ago, and SSTC funds through the leadership of PPD to integrate demographic consideration into national development strategies to advance SRHR activities. To ensure sustainable development, PPD worked on universal health coverage and a plan for demographic diversity.



She envisioned a better future for both people and planet collectively, through the shared conviction and commitment of the ICPD 30 agenda to lift the future of individuals through partnership.

Building on the ICPD 30 discussion, Her Excellency Ms. Diene Keita stated four points of reflection.

1. To design comprehensive policies and programs and reform social protection systems that enable both young and older persons to remain healthy and better integrate them in the productive economy.

2. Utilize SSTC to socialize successful approaches and strengthen our collective capacities. Innovation, technology, and data can be powerful tools to make invisible inequality visible and address persistent challenges, ensuring rights and choices for all.
3. Utilize the SSTC platform to identify and scale up innovative practices, as well as co-create innovative solutions and share them quickly.
4. Continue to work across borders and political parties to address the growing trends of misinformation and disinformation, safe migration and sustainable urban development.

**Opening Speech by Prof. Mohamed Douagi,
Secretary of PPD Board and President Director General, National Board of Family and Population, Ministry of Health, Government of Tunisia.**

“

The challenges we face in the field of population and development are varied and complex. Equitable access to healthcare and education, to the fight against the effects of climate change and urbanization, our partnership is essential to find sustainable solutions.

”



Professor Douagi highlighted some fundamental actions to ensure access to quality health services, education, and economic opportunities for everyone.

1. First, strengthen health systems. Must continue to invest in health infrastructure, especially in rural and marginalized areas, train and support health professionals, and improve access to reproductive and maternal health care.
2. Second, educate and give autonomy to adolescents and young people by improving their well-being. The young people represent the future of nations. It needs to ensure that they have access to quality education and complete information on reproductive health to make clear choices.
3. Thirdly, promote inclusion and equity. It is imperative that policies and programs are inclusive and equitable, considering the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations.
4. To promote gender equality, fight against violence against women and girls, and increase initiatives for women's autonomy, essential to achieve the goal of sustainable development and the commitments of the ICPD+30.

**Statement by Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh,
Minister of Health, Government of The Gambia**

Development certainly is what human endeavor is all about. Bringing these together means we are talking about everything and everything, even though the focus could be health care, could be maternal care, but it encompasses everything. South-South Corporation, as the name implies, people who have similar experiences coming together to support each other in their various developmental aspirations is pivotal because our experiences have been similar.



His Excellency Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh mentioned the 21st IIMC as an opportunity to stand together for a common goal that should yield dividends. He was optimistic that SSTC had the privilege to represent the strategies to the people as a form of responsibility. SSTC partnership should capitalize to benefit the partners to rebuild, restructure, and capacitate the Secretariat.

**Statement by Dr. Mrs. Seetha Kumari Arambepola,
Honorable State Minister of Health, Government of Sri Lanka**

She underscored that South-South Cooperation will continue to play a vital role in advancing sexual and reproductive rights in the future. While Sri Lanka is ready to be an active partner in this endeavor. She congratulates PPD, the Bangladesh Government and UNFPA for hosting this 21st conference here in Dhaka.



**Statement by Mr. Sleiman Timios Kwidini,
Honorable Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care
Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe**

His Excellency Mr. Sleiman Timios Kwidini demonstrated the South-South Cooperation as a key strategy and a sustainable financial tool for achieving the ICPD and SDG goals. South-South cooperation fosters sharing best practices and experiences, assisting member states to achieve national aspirations and development goals in reproductive health, population, and development.



His Excellency illustrated the example of Zimbabwe among other member states that benefited from PPD scholarship programs offered with support from Egypt, India, and South Africa. That largely contributes toward the development of human resources through skills development, leadership, and service delivery in reproductive health, population, and development. He stated that the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Act of 1985, currently under review, establishes the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council for quality integrated family planning and sexual reproductive health services.

Mr. Amos Lugoloobi;

Board Member of PPD and Honorable Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of the Republic of Uganda

“ We have to strengthen PPD governance and its programmatic system to increase monitoring and evaluation systems, population data collection and sharing, and other activities in partnership with academia and civil society to study and collect evidence that will help us understand critical population dynamics and trends better.



He highlighted several significant achievements for Uganda, including the successful completion of the 2024 Digital Population and Housing Census, which indicates a population increase to 45.9 million. Uganda has huge achievements in the improvement of demographics and health services. Also, a decline in population growth rate, reduced Maternal Mortality, and an increase in life expectancy. The country has transitioned from a low human development category to a medium human development category, achieving lower-middle-income status due to economic growth. The speaker outlines Uganda's growth strategy, focusing on Agro-industrialization, tourism development, mineral development, and science & technology to propel the country towards a \$500 billion economy in the next one and a half decades, calling for enhanced South-to-South and Triangular cooperation.

**Closing Remarks and Official Opening by Mr. S.M. Ahsanul Aziz
(on behalf of Md. Azizur Rahman) ;**

**Joint Secretary (Population) and PPD Affairs Desk Officer at the
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh**

“ I wish also to applaud PPD for successfully coordinating PPD business for the last 30 years. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo articulated a bold vision about the relationship between population, development, and individual well-being



Mr. S.M. Ahsanul Aziz announced the official opening of the 21st International Inter-ministerial Conference on South-South Triangular Cooperation in Population and Development and anticipated the outcome document of the conference. The Dhaka Declaration will significantly contribute to the global ICPD-30 review process and the Summit of the Future. He called for a collective effort to increase PPD's capacity to mobilize the Global South and ensure the successful implementation of the ICPD program of action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

SESSION TWO: Ministerial Session on ICPD 30 - Moving Forward

**Keynote Speaker Dr. S.K. Sikdar;
Former Advisor, RCH in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

South-South Cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration about countries of the South. And what does it bring to us? It brings solidarity, it brings self-resilience and also sustainable and equitable economic growth. So what are the potentials of the South-South Cooperation? Why are you standing here? Why are you working here or meeting here as a group? What are the potentials of the South-South Cooperation? actually galvanizes political will, accelerates implementation of the 2030 agenda, employs innovative forms of knowledge exchange, promotes technology transfer, and then builds emergency response.



Dr. Shikdar articulated that South-South Cooperation can involve knowledge exchange platforms, technical exchanges, technology transfer, training & capacity development, joint research, collaborative strategies, investment agreements, resource mobilization, and infrastructure development as its potential areas. It can also involve bilateral assistance, regional cooperation agreements, civil society, and public health networks. Considering those, Dr. Shikdar emphasized three types of methodologies:

- 1) detailed desk review and policy mapping,
- 2) stakeholder consultations, and
- 3) consolidating best practices, devising the roadmap, and capacity building.

The goal is to map policy and programs in PPD member countries, develop a policy review framework, assess each country's strengths and weaknesses, and conduct a detailed review

of existing health policies. That will also include programs, governance, regulatory, and administrative structures. He also outlined a one-year timeline for these initiatives, soliciting support from member governments and Partner Organizations like UNFPA.

Dr. Yu Xuejun:

Vice Chair of the PPD Board and Honorable Vice Minister, National Health Commission, Government of the People's Republic of China

Compared to 30 years ago, the world population and the development situation have undergone a huge change. We are all facing new problems and challenges, especially the ongoing war, the extreme weather, China has always been a firm supporter of hard cooperation.



His Excellency Dr. Xuejun articulated that the Chinese government emphasizes the importance of continuing to adhere to the principles of the conference, focusing on people-centered development, optimizing population development strategies, and continuously improving the policy system of birth support, to achieve the goal of supporting the modernization of China with the development of a high-volume population.

Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh:

Minister of Health, Government of the Gambia

One notable success is the Kabul Obama Initiative. This is a community-based intervention designed to increase the uptake of reproductive health services and empower women and girls. The project has been selected by Partners in Population and Development as a best practice to share with member countries and other developing nations to promote South-South Cooperation in reproductive health, family planning, and population development.



His Excellency Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh described the Gambia's efforts to achieve universal health coverage by introducing the National Health Insurance Scheme and revitalizing its primary healthcare systems through collaboration with the WHO and the UN

partners. He noted that the construction of antenatal hubs locally called "Health Posts" and the introduction of community ambulance schemes in Gambia have been a remarkable success. Deliveries increased to 98% from 84% within a decade and other countries should emulate this. Dr. Samateh informed about the enactment of women's sensitive laws by the government of the Gambia. The Women's Act, the Sexual Offenses Act, and similar acts have been phenomenal in ensuring that the rights of women are protected.

Despite the financial challenges and capacity constraints, He emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation and the sharing of resources to overcome these obstacles and achieve sustainable development.

**His Excellency Mr. Amos Lugoloobi;
PPD Board and Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development
(Planning), Government of the Republic of Uganda**

Over the last 30 years, Uganda has profoundly benefited from the long and short-term trainings by member countries within the South-to-South Triangular Cooperation arrangement, and which have enhanced the capacity of Ugandans to develop and manage sound population and development programs.



Excellency provided evidence of Uganda's progress towards achieving the ICPD 30 and SDGs, particularly significant achievements including a 44% decline in maternal mortality rates, a 22% decrease in neonatal mortality rates, and an increase in births attended by skilled health personnel from 74% to 91%. He also stated that modern contraceptive prevalence rates have increased from 39% in 2016 to 43% in 2022, whereas unmet family planning needs have decreased. Health commodity availability has dropped from 78% to 59% in 2022-23. He emphasizes the challenges such as delays in seeking care, lack of transport, shortages of health commodities, and critical staff persist, affecting the quality of intrapartum care.

**Mr. Sleiman Timios Kwidini;
Honorable Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care,
Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe**

Mr. Kwidini stated that the Zimbabwe Government, with support from developmental partners and civil society, has increased its health sector budget allocation to 14.9% in 2022, with family planning now at 2.4%. The government also signed a contract with UNFPA to increase domestic funding for



contraceptive procurement. This move aligns with the Abuja Declaration's target of 15% health sector budget allocation. He mentioned that Zimbabwe also carried out its first digital census of the population and housing in 2022, and the results showed some notable progress, such as a drop in the maternal mortality ratio from 525 in 2012 to 114,000 in 2023, an increase in the prevalence of modern contraceptives from 59% in 2010–2011 to 67% in 2023, and decreased in the rate of adolescent births, though rates in rural areas remained high in 2022. This census provided a comprehensive report that aligns with United Nations recommendations.

Prof. Mohamed Douagi;
Secretary of PPD Board and President Director General, National Board of Family and Population, Ministry of Health, Government of Tunisia

Professor Mohamed Douagi elaborated on how Tunisia has successfully managed its population growth, a crucial achievement given its limited resources and geography since independence in 1956. He stated about the implementation of family planning strategies as early as 1966, leading to the establishment of the National Office of the Family of the Population in 1973. These efforts helped Tunisia maintain a sustainable population size of 12 million, while also advancing women's rights and enabling them to be active members of society.



Dr. Ahmed Ali Bourji;
Secretary General, National Population Council, Council of Ministers, Government of the Republic of Yemen

Dr. Bourji appealed to PPD member states, particularly those with financially independent and capable, to support Yemen in overcoming its current difficulties. He called for enhanced capacities for staff and local partners, cooperation in population studies, participation in international events, and technical support. He expressed hope for increased collaboration with PPD member states, both collectively and bilaterally, to achieve mutual goals in population and development.



Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh;
Board and Exco Member of PPD, Director-General, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Government of the Republic of Kenya

Dr. Sheikh highlighted Kenya's efforts in promoting South-South cooperation, providing technical support to other African countries, and benefiting from bilateral exchanges and

capacity-building initiatives. He emphasized Kenya's commitment to the ICPD POA, including the formation of a national task force to track and report progress. He mentioned the implementation of a national integrated monitoring and evaluation system to tackle issues like teenage pregnancy, HIV, and gender-based violence. Kenya has introduced many initiatives to end female genital mutilation and ensure universal access to quality reproductive health services.



Despite significant progress, Dr. Sheikh acknowledged challenges such as the impact of the pandemic, youth unemployment, rapid urbanization, and insufficient funding for South-South Cooperation. He outlined Kenya's plans to establish a center of excellence for population and development and emphasized the potential of South-South Triangular Cooperation in the 21st century. He reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to promoting SSC to achieve national, regional, and global goals in population and development. Kenya is aiming to transform into an industrialized country with a high quality of life for all its citizens as envisioned in Vision 2030.

Dr. Kittipong Saejeng, Medical Officer, Advisory Level (Health Promotion), Department of Health (on behalf of Dr. Achara Nithi-aphinyasakul; Director General, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Royal Thai Government)

Dr. Kittipong Saejeng articulated that substantial progress has been made in policies. The maternal mortality rate in Thailand was reduced to 20 per 100,000 live births in 2022, which surpassed the SDGs target. The Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act of 2016 has led to a substantial decrease in the adolescent birth rate, from 44 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 years in 2015 to 21 per 1,000 in 2022. He also highlighted efforts to prevent gender-based violence, with women and girls accessing prevention and responsive care through official platforms, one-stop crisis centers under the Ministry of Public Health. Thailand has demonstrated its commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ rights and health equality by passing the Marriott Equality Bill and creating a unit under the Department of Health to promote and safeguard LGBTQ+ health.



SESSION THREE: Achieving SRHR goals through SSTC

**Keynote Speech by Dr. Asa Torkelsson (on behalf of Ms. Julia Bunting);
Chief at UNFPA Seoul Representation Office**

“
Let us deploy SSTC and the power of partnerships to demonstrate our solidarity and harness the contextualized knowledge and rising resources from the global South



Dr. Asa Torkelsson delivered her remarks on behalf of Program Director Julia Bunting, addressing the topic of strengthening sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).

ICPD, as the global community is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, adopted in 1994. While progress has been made, barriers remain, including complex crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, and climate change, which divert resources from the ICPD 30 agenda.

**Professor Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter;
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**

“
Reproductive health and rights are human rights and a precondition for women's empowerment and equality, which is again a precondition for securing the well-being and prosperity of the people.



Dr. Halida highlighted how Bangladesh has adopted the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) PoA, shifting focus from economic to public health and human rights. The country has incorporated these principles into its five-year plans to achieve universal access to reproductive health.

Professor Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter outlined Bangladesh's best practices in family planning, which contributed to reducing the total fertility rate from 6 to 2.3 children per woman over 52 years. These practices include:

1. Deployment of 37,000 female outreach workers (Family Welfare Assistants) to visit homes and offer contraceptive services and information.
2. Adoption of a "cafeteria approach" to family planning, allowing couples to choose from a wide range of contraceptive methods.
3. A well-managed distribution system and Social Marketing Program for family planning commodities.
4. Effective mass media communication to promote smaller family size norms.

Mrs. Malango Botomani;
Director of Administration, Department of Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Government of Malawi

“South-South and Triangular Cooperation is a powerful mechanism for advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide.



Mrs. Botomani discussed the challenges in implementing SRHR initiatives through SSTRC, including the diversity of cultural and regional contexts, resource limitations, and policy misalignment between countries. She emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive approaches, resource mobilization, and policy harmonization to overcome these challenges and achieve SRHR goals in member countries.

Dr. Vibhavendra Singh Raghuvanshi,
Chief of Health, UNFPA, Bangladesh

Dr. Vibhavendra Singh Raghuvanshi praised Bangladesh for tackling the Rohingya Crisis. UNFPA, along with other UN agencies and partners, continuously supports the Bangladesh government to provide shelter and other services. He articulated some Data on the success of their work in the Rohingya camps: contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from under 10% to about 55%, and uptake of long-acting reversible contraceptive methods is close to 8% in Rohingya camps, compared to under 1% nationally. The unmet need for family planning is about 8% in the camps, compared to 12% nationally.



Dr. Ukik Kusuma Kurniawan
Head of PULIN BKKBN, Government of the Republic of Indonesia

“ We stand ready to advance collaboration and share best practices among developing countries, especially PPD member countries, to address common issues and to achieve the ICPD Plan of Action, SDGs, and the 3 Zeros. ”



Dr. Ukik provides a comprehensive definition of SRHR, encompassing sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive health, and reproductive rights. Also, he emphasizes that SRHR specifically targets adolescent girls and people with disabilities.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid
Professor at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka

“ for me, it's about changing curricula, adapting into practice, making it broader about human beings and communities moving away from silos and research that is inclusive of multi-disciplinary perspectives will give us much more information and far more programs and interventions that are tailored to the needs of SRHR. ”



Distinguished speaker Professor Sabina Faiz Rashi highlighted that significant strides have been made by various countries, including chronic marginality and widening inequalities persist. She emphasizes understanding the complexities, intricacies, and diversity surrounding SRHR, not just in Bangladesh but across the world. The professor pointed out that the SRHR agenda cannot be siloed, it would allow problems to persist. She elaborated on the multifaceted challenges of SRHR, including:

1. Unmet needs in sexual and reproductive health
2. Mental health stresses and loneliness
3. Inadequate support for aging populations,
4. Chronic diseases,
5. Post-COVID impacts on jobs and livelihoods, and
6. Diverse community factors such as class, religion, caste, age, location, identity, poverty, and access to resources

Throughout her speech, Prof. Rashid emphasized the importance of moving beyond siloed approaches to SRHR and embracing a more holistic, context-specific understanding of the challenges and potential solutions in the field.

Dr. Thierry O. LAWALE

Director of Mother and Child Health, Government of Government of the Republic of Benin

The speaker emphasized several key areas to strengthen South-South Cooperation models. Mobilizing Resources, Strengthening Coordination and collaboration among countries, and building trust with external partners. Importantly, the cross-border activities have allowed for interventions at population movement hubs, addressing the unique challenges posed by significant migratory flows in the region.

While celebrating the successes, the honorable speaker also acknowledged the major challenges of West African nations. Regulatory hurdles, lack of harmonized political frameworks, security threats, and ongoing political crises hamper their efforts.

He concluded with a metaphor from Benin, underscoring the power of collective action and unity in overcoming even the most daunting obstacles. The message was clear - by standing together, these countries can go further and achieve more in improving sexual and reproductive health.



SESSION FOUR: Leveraging SSTC for Universal Health Coverage

Dr. Ashrafi Ahmad, ndc, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh.

Dr. Ashrafi Ahmad, ndc, emphasized the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a fundamental human right and a key component of sustainable development. She highlighted Bangladesh's progress in healthcare but noted major challenges, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. The country's health expenditure, at 1.5% of GDP, falls significantly below the global average of 5.9%.

Various initiatives implemented by Bangladesh to progress towards UHC, such as the National Health Policy (2011), Sector-wide Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program, Community Clinic initiative, establishing over 14,000 clinics in rural areas, Shasthyo Surokhsha Karmasuchi (SSK), Maternal Health Voucher Scheme (MHVS), Community-based Health Insurance (CBHI), development of Health Care Financing Strategy (2012-2032), and Digital Health Initiatives including Telemedicine Services. She emphasized the critical role of Primary Health Care (PHC) in driving UHC, to empower communities and promote social accountability. The importance of maternal and child health programs, such as the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and Safe Motherhood Initiatives, was also brought up.



Dr. Cheikh Ahmed Tidiane GUEYE Senior Technical Advisor, International Cooperation, Ministry of Health and Social Action Government of the Republic of Senegal

Dr. Cheikh Ahmed Tidiane GUEYE, Senior Technical Advisor for International Cooperation in Senegal, outlined Senegal's background and rationale for pursuing UHC, it requires a combination of health financing and governance mechanisms to improve service availability, reduce out-of-pocket payments, and extend health risk coverage, especially for vulnerable populations. To mobilize resources and reach the Abuja 15% target for health spending, Senegal developed a National Health Financing Strategy (NHFS) for UHC 2017. This strategy has four key directions:

1. Improving the availability of quality healthcare services.
2. Extending protection against illness-related financial risks.
3. Strengthening multi-sectoral interventions with high health impact.
4. Increasing mobilization of financial resources for UHC.



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He concluded by demonstrating Senegal's comprehensive approach to achieving UHC through national strategy development, resource mobilization, international cooperation, and alignment of donor support with national priorities.

Ms. Mary Gyasi
Officer in Charge of Policy, Planning and Program
National Population Council (NPC), Ghana

“
There should be a strong collaboration among all SSTC Members in order to bring a smooth running of new Universal health coverage for everyone.
”



Ms. Gyasi acknowledged ongoing challenges, including uneven access to primary health service and reliance on development partners for financing public health interventions. Despite these obstacles, Ghana is committed to ensuring all citizens receive quality health services without financial barriers. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of strong collaboration among SSTC members to facilitate the successful implementation of universal health coverage, recognizing that this approach could benefit other African countries facing similar challenges.

Dr. Abdellah TALEB
Ministry of Health – Morocco

“
I affirm that Morocco is always ready to share its experiences and successful practices with the African countries within the framework of South-South cooperation
”



Several successful programs in Morocco as potential subjects for experience sharing:

1. Sexual and Reproductive Health: Significant improvements in indicators and the implementation of a National Strategy for 2021-2030.
2. Maternal and Child Health: Morocco is implementing a national strategy to prevent maternal and neonatal deaths for 2023-2027.
3. Adolescent and Youth Health: A National Strategy for 2022-2030 is being implemented based on principles of equity, integration, convergence, intersectionality, and good governance.

4. Elderly Health: Morocco has launched a national health strategy for elderly people for 2024-2030, addressing the challenges of an aging population.
5. Cancer Prevention and Control: The national plan shows promising results, particularly for cervical, breast, and lung cancers.

The ongoing efforts in vaccination, combating violence against women, disability services, children's health, and nutrition. In the context of South-South cooperation, Morocco's contributions are highlighted:

1. Education: Thousands of youth from African countries receive basic training in medical and paramedical studies in Morocco, often with scholarships.
2. Capacity Building: Morocco hosts health officials for skill transfer and training, including at the National School of Public Health.
3. COVID-19 Support: Morocco provided medicines, vaccines, and equipment to African countries during the pandemic.
4. Consultations: , Morocco conducted consultations on the Nairobi Summit commitments and the introduction of contraceptive implants with the support of PPD.

Dr. Abdellah Taleb concludes by reaffirming Morocco's readiness to share its experiences and successful practices with African countries within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

Ms. Zemzem Mohammed

Head of National Maternal Health Program, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

If there are ample resources at the hospital and there is a shortage at the health center, they exchange by doing this whole thing. The result we found is that there is a reduction in unnecessary referrals among health facilities, and there is a smoothening of the communication between healthcare workers among those in hospitals and those in the health centers.



Ms. Zemzem Mohammed emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to family planning, implement a roadmap to 2030, and a compact agreement signed with UN agencies, particularly UNFPA. The government views family planning as crucial for reducing maternal, infant, and neonatal mortality, as well as advancing the nation's economy.

SESSION FIVE: Demographic Dividend and Sustainable Development

Mr. Amos Lugoloobi
Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda

Mr. Amos Lugoloobi stated it is utterly essential to invest in education, healthcare, and skill training to get full benefits from the demographic dividend. He exemplified countries like Kenya, Vietnam, and China, which have implemented policies that support economic stability and growth. He articulated six points of conclusion during the session:

1. Every nation should adopt this strategy to benefit from the population structure that is bulging in the middle. Economic growth potential is strongly linked to population age structure shifts.
2. Monitoring fertility rates and keeping closer to the replacement level is crucial. Because a drop in the fertility rate leads to a reduction in the working-age population and the youth,
3. It's crucial to harness this labor to maximize the demographic dividend and empower, ensuring economic growth.
4. With fewer dependents, families save more money, which leads to increased investment and growth, resulting in more dividends to harvest.
5. Investments in education, Provide Skill training to the population, and in health improvement. It helps to enhance the productivity of the population, particularly the workforce.
6. Women's Participation: A declining fertility rate indicates that a woman is carrying fewer children. It's merely two. Therefore, women frequently have greater options to enter the workforce as fertility rates decline. Some women choose not to enter the workforce because they are preoccupied with children.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh
Board and Exco Member of PPD, Director-General, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Government of the Republic of Kenya

"We developed what we call the demographic dividend model for Kenya in 2014. The results from the modeling exercise showed that Kenya has the potential to harness the demographic window, but strategic, deliberate investment must be made in health, education, economic, and governance.



For harnessing the demographic dividend, Dr. Sheikh implied that youth involvement is crucial for inclusive and sustainable development, improving program outcomes, promoting intergenerational equity, and enhancing skills. Youth-led initiatives address challenges like social isolation, marginalization, and unemployment. While the National Youth Council Kenya addresses youth issues through legal frameworks and policies, but faces challenges in health and education. Despite universal health coverage, adolescent sexual and reproductive health integration, and domestic financing for family planning, Kenya has made significant progress in reducing teen pregnancy, increasing contraceptive use, and boosting youth employment.

Dr. TANG Mengjun

Research Fellow, Division Chief of the Department of International Cooperation, China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC)

“ I think South-South cooperation and triangular corporation contributed to reaping the demographic dividend obviously, through policy dialogue, experience sharing, capacity building, and other modality of South-South, developing countries learn from each other.



Dr. TANG Mengjun highlighted three points--

1. How the population and demographic transitions are interrelated with the economy,
2. How do the developing countries comprehend and harness the demographic dividend by adopting strategies like fertility control, investment in education and health, improving human capital, and ongoing social and economic reforms?
3. How South-South cooperation could enhance the ability to reap demographic dividends through policy dialogue, experience sharing, and capacity building.

Mr. Luong Quang Dang

PCC of PPD and Deputy Chief of Office, National Steering Committee for Population and Development, Government of Social Republic of Vietnam, Head of Personnel and International Cooperation Division, Vietnam Population Authority, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

“ The demographic dividend is not bringing dividend in the economy. It's just only to take the opportunity for the economic development.



Mr. Luong Quang Dang shared the lessons learned from Vietnam, emphasizing the importance of strong governmental commitment, comprehensive and inclusive policies. He underscored to focus in key areas including employment, education, health insurance coverage, and investment in high-value, high-technical industries. Vietnam's policies aim to ensure job availability, improve job quality, and attract foreign direct investment through infrastructure development. Women's empowerment and addressing low fertility through population policies are also critical.

Mr. Dang concluded by expressing a desire for continued knowledge exchange and cooperation to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030, inviting collaboration with other nations.

Dr. T.V. Sekher

**Professor & Head, Department of Family & Generations
International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India**

Dr. Sekher discussed the regional variations in demographic dividend and transitions across India, highlighting the importance of understanding these variations for effective demographic dividend management, and pointed out the following to realize demographic dividend in India.

1. Southern states prioritize elder care due to their aging populations and low reproduction rates.
2. Northern states, where demographic changes are lagging, need better access to family planning and maternal health care.
3. Central states need to place more of an emphasis on education and skill development.



Dr. T.V. Sekher emphasized in the context of South-South cooperation, India should complement its national efforts with international support to optimize the benefits of demographic transition, reduce the digital divide, safeguard the environment for value addition, build capacities, and transfer technology. Member states should play an important role in supporting evidence-based data-driven policies, sharing data collection methods, and methods of program evaluation. Knowledge, skills, and resources should be exchanged among member countries, learning from best practices to improve lives and leave no one behind.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam

Chief Editor of the PPD International e-Journal of South-South Cooperation in Population and Development. Department of Population Sciences, Dhaka University

Professor Islam emphasized significant challenges in South-South collaborative countries, inadequate investment



in health and education for building human capital. A significant portion of the working-age population, 38.88%, is not involved in education, employment, or training. Hence, the youth unemployment rate remains high. Child marriage or teenage pregnancy is also high in South Asian countries. Addressing these issues requires better policy advocacy, increased funding, and regional integration to ensure the achievement of ICPD goals. The South-South Triangular Collaboration (SSTC) might have a major contribution by facilitating technology transfer, capacity building, and sharing best practices from countries like China, Vietnam, and Thailand. These collaborations should also advocate for increased budgetary allocations in health and education to ensure sustainable benefits.

Ms. Mariama Fanneh
PCC, Director of Population Affairs Office of the Vice President
Government of the Republic of The Gambia

The demographic shift, presents a golden opportunity, and South-South Technical Cooperation offers a powerful tool to unlock its potential



Ms. Mariama Fanneh noted that South-South Technical Cooperation (SSTC) has an important role in fast-tracking the PoA and the SDGs by leveraging best practices from other countries. The Gambia got support in establishing a demographic observatory and integrating demographic variables into sector plans and policies. Through SSTC, young Gambian professionals are receiving training in population-related fields, enhancing their ability to contribute to effective population policies and programs. By embracing SSTC, The Gambia can transform demographic shifts into long-term prosperity, ensuring a brighter future for all citizens.

Dr. Sekou Amadou TRAORE
Director of Population, National Direction of Population S/C the minister in charge of population questions, Mali

Dr. Sekou Amadou TRAORE described that Mali is implementing comprehensive and well-coordinated policies to accelerate economic growth and the development of human capital in order to capitalize on the demographic dividend. Strengthening family planning, enhancing maternity and child health, and addressing vulnerabilities, especially persons with disabilities. He reaffirmed that the women's employment in non-traditional roles has been encouraged by Partnership. For example, UNFPA, SWEDD project, which contributed a lot in health service delivery. In order to achieve sustainable development and take advantage of Mali's youthful population for possible future economic growth. Population dynamics must be strategically managed in conjunction with investments in Governance, Health, and Education.



SESSION SIX: Innovation, Technology and Data through SSTC

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Denis Nkala
Chief, Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs
United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

There is nothing like South-South technology. It only becomes South-South technology when it's fit for purpose when it's appropriate.



Dr. Denis Nkala provided some recommendations for the South-South Countries:

1. As we go towards the Summit of the Future, do not refrain from a fair assessment of what has worked and hasn't.
2. Enlist the role of the United Nations Development System to accelerate Technology, including Artificial Intelligence;
3. Documentation and share positive experiences in collaboration and exchanges, for example, The UN Secretary-General's Annual Report on the State of South-South Cooperation by UNOSSC;
4. Recognize the extensive existence of Innovation, Science and Technology-based organizations and work together for mutual benefit,
5. Visit the South-South Galaxy Web Page, which demonstrates examples of technology platforms and data networks;
6. Mobilize Resources for the capacity building of countries interested in collecting data.

In his concluding remarks, the keynote speaker focused on the data collection methods related to South-South Cooperation, the important role of proper technology transfer, and the necessity of cooperative efforts to overcome challenges and share successful experiences. The speaker advocated for the use of a systematic approach that incorporates several UN agencies and Member Countries in order to successfully handle the intricate problems, data, and technology in the framework of South-South Cooperation.

Dr. Asa Torkelsson
Chief at UNFPA Seoul Representation Office

I think harnessing the power of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and collaborations can be some very powerful avenues, especially when managing very complex agendas such as the ICPD and SDGs and World Peace.



Dr. Asa Torkelsson started her speech by reflecting on her unique perspective from a country "already in the future" in terms of global megatrends. She highlighted South Korea's remarkable transformation from a post-war struggling nation to a Global Leader, emphasizing its commitment to increasing development assistance to other countries. The United Nations' resolve to become "UN 2.0" means a "quintet of change," emphasizing strategic foresight, data, behavioral sciences, innovation, and digital solutions in order to prepare the UN for future opportunities and challenges. The significance of these partnerships to addressing complex agendas like SDGs and ICPD. She furthermore suggested that these partnerships can provide powerful avenues to eradicate global issues.

Dr. Shabnam Mostari
Public Health Specialist and Head of Smart Health Accelerator
a2i (Aspire to Innovate)

“South-South Triangular Cooperation places emphasis on the critical role of countries facing similar challenges and underlying development and coming together, learning, and supporting each other by identifying vital innovations, adapting to them in the local context, and scaling up the noble solution to the country, we will be able to mitigate the public service challenges.”



Dr. Mostari highlighted Bangladesh's contribution to South-South Cooperation and the country's endeavors to provide technology and advice to other emerging and low-developed nations. She underlined how crucial it is for countries dealing with related issues to band together to share knowledge and modify inventions for regional settings.

Bangladesh's participation in the worldwide 50-in-5 campaign, which aims to establish Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in 50 countries by 2028, was also addressed by the speaker. She also mentioned Bangladesh's contributions to the DPG registry, including the ekShop Marketplace, the Grievance Redress System (GRS) & NISE Skills and Certification. This open-source initiative benefited other countries such as Somalia, Fiji and Yemen.

Dr. Shabnam Mostari concluded by underlining the important role that South-South technology plays in strengthening countries' abilities to use innovation, technology, and demographic data to meet SDG and ICPD30 targets. She demanded that to build a more just future for everybody, cooperation and the use of digital transformation should continue.

Dr. Nompumelelo Nzimande
University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

The first thing I would advocate for is that government should support a healthy data ecosystem.



Dr. Nompumelelo described the creation of the South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR), which aims to assist research centers across multiple domains, such as Health and Demographics Surveillance Systems.

She emphasized her discussion by outlining PPD's potential for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. She underlined the importance of:

1. Sharing information across different countries to improve best practices.
2. Create a conducive environment for data collection and innovation.
3. Foster research opportunities.
4. Enhance capacity development in data collection, analysis, and application. She emphasized the importance of an advanced data tracking system, resolving societal issues, and guiding policy decisions. The interdependence of innovation, efficient governance, and data collection is a necessity for ongoing development and cooperation in these domains.

Dr. Ubaidur Rob
*Chairman, Streams Teach, Former Country Director
Population Council, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

We need disintegrated data. Still, we are talking about data in general. We are not disintegrating. I am not disintegrating talking about males and females. I am talking about regional disintegration because the planning process has to depend on how the areas are moving fast



Dr. Ubaidur Rob illustrated the importance of comprehensive data collection. The respected speaker mentioned how technical innovations now allow for precise predictions of rainfall and water flow, which is crucial for countries like Bangladesh. He noted that one-third of

Bangladesh could be underwater for certain periods in the next 20-25 years, emphasizing careful planning for displacement, urbanization, and population movement.

He advocated for disaggregated data, not just by gender but also by region, to inform planning processes. Regarding technology, the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) but cautioned that proper education and training in AI are necessary before implementation. He suggested that South-South Cooperation could play a vital role in adapting existing AI software for use in developing countries.

Ms. Irene Ashikhongo Muhunzu

**Assistant Director, National Council for Population and Development (NCPD)
Government of Kenya**

Ms. Muhunzu narrated the inspiring story of Kenya's digital innovations, paying particular attention to local inventions such as M-Pesa, which have fostered digital participation and cemented Kenya's reputation as a hub for developing practical digital solutions.

She highlighted Kenya's performance in access, content, future technologies, regulation, inclusion, and digital opportunities for individuals, businesses, and government. She briefly discussed the Ajira Digital Program, which prepares young Kenyans for the global digital economy.

Government of Kenya, through the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), has been actively leveraging social media platforms to engage youth on AYSRH (Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health) issues, organise online policy dialogues, and develop animated videos to educate youth. Kenya has integrated ICPD indicators into the Electronic National Monitoring and Information System (eNMIS) to track progress towards ICPD and SDG goals. This allows data-driven decisions for program implementation and resource allocation. The government also created the ICPD or 30?? Hub, an online platform for monitoring AYSRH (Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health) commitments.



The breakthrough Mobilizing Maternal Health (M-Mama) computerized referral system for emergency evacuation of pregnant women in rural and underserved locations. The electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS), collects real-time community health data and improves accuracy. Kenya's status as a "Silicon Savannah" highlights the country's thriving digital sector and the many prospects it offers to foreign businesses. Billion-dollar tech scene in Kenya, which has drawn major companies like Facebook, Microsoft, IBM, and Intel. She described the explosive rise in technology-related fields, such as e-learning, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and financial services. Konza City, Kenya's smart city, has attracted tech giants like Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. The Kenyan government has fostered a tech-friendly environment through policies promoting STEM fields and teaching coding skills from primary school.

She concluded by expressing optimism about the continued growth of Kenya's ICT sector. Her closing remarks conveyed a sense of excitement for Kenya's future as a leading digital hub in Africa while acknowledging the dynamic nature of the African technological landscape.

Dr. Betty Kyaddondo

PCC of PPD, Director of Family Health Department

National Population Council (NPC), Government of the Republic of Uganda

Dr. Kyaddondo stated that for the SDG Goals and universal health care to be achieved, digital technologies are essential. Uganda's digital transformation has primarily benefited the health sector. The delivery of healthcare is being revolutionized by telemedicine, remote care, and mobile health technologies. ICT integration has improved data ecosystems (DHIS2 and HMIS) by introducing Electronic Health Records (EHRs) in place of paper records. It has also enhanced supply chain management, monitoring, and surveillance. Campaigns to modify behavior and communicate about health are using social media platforms. The National Medical Stores has been doing effective medical supply chain operations by enhancing data management and tracking of logistics. To address and lower maternal fatalities, the Ministry of Health implemented a Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance system that involved local communities.



UNFPA's support for a digital app circulates information and solutions on HIV, sexual health, and gender-based violence. This software supports evidence-based advocacy and planning by helping users to find nearby health providers and track important indicators. She also discussed the initiatives that support IT training programs for youth. Digitalized youth for software development and ICT innovation to solve community issues. This Training program develops skills for education, health, youth empowerment, and agriculture. Through public-private partnerships, these projects use the private sector's software development and innovation skills.

SESSION SEVEN: Resource Mobilization in the Context of SSTC

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Asa Torkelsson

Chief at UNFPA Seoul Representation Office

By collaborating, we also weave peace, and we can more quickly reach our SDGs. And if we are to compete, and some are saying that competition or it's, it's an inert drive in humanity. Let us compete on who can best serve the underserved. Let that be our competition.



Asa Torkelsson brought up the "one-million-dollar question" of how to leverage SDG resources. The speaker acknowledges the diverse regional realities and country contexts. She highlighted that the world has changed significantly since 2015, when the SDGs were introduced. Global challenges such as fragmentation, new conflicts, and climate stressors. She pointed out emerging opportunities, new actors, and potential funding sources. The speaker reflected upon the role of SSTC in addressing these challenges, citing the COVID-19 pandemic as an example of how the global community can quickly exchange data, adapt behaviors, and overcome barriers. She suggested that artificial intelligence and other technological advancements offer opportunities to leapfrog development challenges.

Innovative events are becoming routine, making learnings from the humanitarian sector critically important. Every country has some best practices to share and learn, and engaging in South-South collaboration requires leadership and courage.

In closing, the speaker advocates for collaboration to weave peace and achieve the SDGs more quickly.

H.E. Mr. Heru Hartanto Subolo
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

It is important on how SSTC could be implemented in the complementary policy in a traditional North and South Cooperation



His Excellency discussed the sustainability of policies in the current political climate, fostering commitment through campaigns, conferences, workshops, and media outreach. Regarding collaboration between PPD and UNFPA for resource mobilization from emerging economies, His Excellency suggested several key strategies:

1. Strategic alignment of goals between PPD and UNFPA, particularly in population and development issues.
2. Joint advocacy and outreach to raise awareness among governments, private sector entities, and philanthropic organizations.
3. Capacity building and technical assistance provision to emerging economies.
4. Development of innovative financing mechanisms for emerging economies.

His Excellency then outlined strategies for developing a structured approach to South-South and Triangular Resource Mobilization:

1. Policy framework development, establishing clear objectives, principles, and priorities for SSTC.
2. Institutional strengthening through capacity building.
3. Resource mapping to identify partners and assess capacities.
4. Partner identification within countries or regions.

Methodologies for facilitating technical assistance through SSTC are mandatory for a structured approach that ensures efficient collaboration and sustainable outcomes. The key elements are mapping and capacities in the recipient countries. Partner identification, building technical systems, programs, knowledge management, and dissemination are required

Dr. Denis Nkala

**Chief, Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs
United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**



There is nothing that is South-South Cooperation Resources from the very beginning. It's only when they are purposed for South-South Cooperation then they become South-South Cooperation resources."

The UN Office for South-South Cooperation's trust fund was discussed in Dr. Denis's speech. The three specific funds he highlighted:

1. India, Brazil, and South Africa facilitate Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), with each country contributing \$1 million annually.
2. India-UN Development Partnership Fund is described as the office's largest program.
3. Resources from China used for City-to-City Collaboration.

Additionally, He mentioned a Triangular Cooperation Window, with contributions from the Republic of Korea (supporting Mekong countries on drought and climate change issues) and the Russian Federation (providing resources for work in the Sahel region of Africa).

Mr. Fethi Ben Messaoud

**International Consultant and
Former Government Official of Tunisia**



We must mobilize resources as has been said with a public-private partnership. We must promote research for innovation, and as we talked about technology.

Mr. Fethi Ben Messaoud discussed the comprehensive framework for the institutionalization of South-South Cooperation in national health strategies among PPD members.

1. Niger (2001-2004): Aimed at reducing maternal mortality and improving reproductive health and family planning indicators.
2. Chad (2005-2006): Focused on enhancing reproductive health and family planning services.
3. Mauritania (2007-2012): Targeted reduction of maternal mortality and promotion of reproductive health and family planning.
4. Djibouti (2008-2009): Established a specialized clinic for reproductive health and family planning.
5. Mali (2009-2023): Provided support for implementing reproductive health policy in the Kayes region.

The speaker specifically mentioned the Mali project, as it led to the creation of the National Office for Reproductive Health (ONASR), modeled after Tunisia's National Office for Family and Population (ONFP).

To overcome these challenges and enhance South-South Cooperation, the speaker proposed several perspectives:

1. Mobilizing additional resources through public-private partnerships.
2. Strengthening institutional frameworks by implementing more effective cooperation mechanisms
3. Developing joint projects with donors
4. Expanding geographical coverage to include more southern countries and regions
5. Promoting research and innovation

Dr. Ahmed Al Kabir
President, RTM International, Formerly Chief of Party, JSI
and Chairman, Rupali Bank

Effective resource mobilization within the framework of SSTC is essential for achieving ICPD 30+ goals and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Together through SSTC we can build stronger partnerships, enhance capacity, and achieve sustainable development goals that leave no one behind.



Dr. Kabir proposed a methodology for technical assistance within SSTC, including needs assessment, effective partnership development, and the establishment of knowledge-sharing platforms. He advocated for a structured approach to SSTC, including the development of national SSTC strategies, promotion of regional cooperation, and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems.

Dr. Kabir concluded by emphasizing that effective resource mobilization within the SSTC framework is essential for achieving the ICPD30+ goals and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Continued innovation, collaboration, and commitment to ensure that SSTC plays a central role in creating a more equitable and sustainable world.

Prof. Joseph Akinkugbe Adelegan
Professor at The University of Venda, South Africa

“

The funding gap cannot be mobilized through only traditional resources. We must look at business as usual and go beyond the domestic resource mobilization and development aids to meet the funding gap

”



Professor Adelegan elaborated on the nature of South-South cooperation as a partnership model that goes beyond traditional aid recipient roles. He emphasized how SSTC improves the effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance through collaborative, innovative, adaptable, scalable, affordable, and context-based solutions. South-South cooperation is complementary to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, he advocated for incorporating a resource mobilization strategy into PPD's next five-year strategic plan (2025-2030). This strategy should include operational dimensions with SSTC as a key accelerator with measurable impacts.

To recognize the limitations of traditional funding sources, Professor Adelegan proposed a range of innovative financing mechanisms:

1. Leveraging existing South-South cooperation funds: Several funds created by Southern countries, such as China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF), the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund, and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
2. Developing bankable solutions: Creating project preparation grants aligned with PPD's strategic pillars, to be funded by regional and international development financial institutions.
3. Engaging the private sector: Emphasizing the scarcity of public and concessional funds, the need for significant private sector investments is vital. By utilizing public funds to catalyze and mobilize private financing, target specific barriers or risks that inhibit private investment.

4. Sovereign Wealth Funds: He cited the example of Nigeria's NSIA Healthcare Development and Investment Company collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health to invest in healthcare institutions.
5. Pension Funds: With over \$22 trillion in global assets, pension funds were highlighted as a potential source for equity financing.
6. Global Climate Finance Architecture: Various climate investment funds, including the Global Environmental Facility, Adaptation Fund, and Green Climate Fund, as potential sources for financing climate change, migration, and population development solutions.
7. Green Bonds: Professor Adelegan explained how these instruments could be used to finance environmentally friendly development solutions.

Professor Adelegan emphasized the need to move beyond "business as usual" models in resource mobilization. The potential of SSTC to improve development assistance effectiveness through context-based solutions and stressed the importance of using public funds strategically to catalyze private investment rather than directly funding projects.

SESSION EIGHT: Closing Ceremony

**Session Introduction by Mr. Olivier Zambuko
Officer in Charge, PPD**

Why we really have the IIMCs is to garner political support from member countries, but also to garner support both in terms of resources, and we have heard that there are now pockets that are available that we need innovation to tap into, this is exactly what this platform is all about.



Mr. Zambuko expressed gratitude for the active participation in the 21st International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, highlighting the contributions of keynote speakers, panelists, and the United Nations Population Fund. He also appreciated the Government of Bangladesh's decision to host the conference.

During these engagements, significant statements and commitments were made, highlighting the importance of garnering political and resource support from member countries, Mr. Zambuko added. This platform aims to innovate and tap into available resources to advance our shared goals.

He expressed his sincere gratitude to the PPD Secretariat and dedicated consultant, Professor Dr. T.V. Sekher from India, who diligently compiled the outcome document. He stated that the PCCs and member nations had worked hard to maintain unity on the pledges made.

He appreciated the dedication and contributions, which are the driving forces behind our progress in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The support and collaboration will undoubtedly help us achieve our shared objectives.

Chair Dr. Rokeya Sultana
Honourable State Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



We must consolidate our engagement of partnership within the South-South and triangular cooperation framework to unlock more resources for our respective national development plans towards a prosperous and healthy life for all.

Her excellency Dr. Rokeya Sultana announced the adoption of the 'Dhaka Declaration' and expressed her optimism that necessary measures would be taken to integrate its actions into the outcomes of the upcoming Summit of the Future in September 2024.

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



Together, we have the power to create the future where no one is left behind. Let's return to our respective countries with renewed vigour and steadfast commitment in advancing the goals of the South-South Cooperation in population and development.

Dr. Sheikh underlined the importance of translating commitments into tangible actions, which will require concerted efforts, sustained political will, and active participation from all stakeholders, including the Government, civil society, the private sector, youth, and

communities. This conference marked a critical juncture in SSTC, celebrating 30 years since the ICPD's inception and recognizing the diverse stages of population dynamics across different countries. He emphasized the importance of establishing Centers of Excellence to foster innovations, improve data utilization, and promote collaborative research, fostering capacity building and knowledge sharing.

Honorable Dr. Sheikh emphasized monitoring and evaluation for effective interventions, the use of data and evidence-based approaches for informed decision-making. Dr. Sheikh urged attendees to return to their countries with renewed commitment to advancing South-South Cooperation's goals in population and development.

Call for Action: Dr. Prof. Tarek Tawfik Amin
Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health for Population Affairs
Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

His Excellency Dr. Prof. Tarek Tawfik Amin pronounced the Dhaka Declaration by upholding the following principles:



■ **Political Collaboration:**

We appreciate the importance of policy dialogues, capacity building and technical cooperation. Hence, we will augment high-level exchanges through regular summits/ministerial meetings to institutionalize South-South collaboration and promote capacity building in this regard to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, thereby achieving universal health coverage.

■ **Economic Collaboration:**

We pledge to support each other's economic endeavors, deepen high-level exchanges, and effectively utilize our demographic advantages to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. We will enhance the representation of PPD member countries and partners in decision-making processes by including their perspectives and voices.

■ **Social Collaboration:**

We will strengthen cooperation in public health sectors, including science and technology, health education, environment, and climate change. We aim to enhance cooperation mechanisms and establish new platforms for knowledge exchange, aiming for effective, accessible, sustainable, and resilient health systems through collaboration.

Remark: Prof. Dr. A F M Ruhal Haque
MP, Chairman, Standing Committee on
Ministry of Social Welfare, and, Former Minister
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



By working together, sharing innovative solutions and supporting one another, we can make significant stride towards world where every individual can lead life dignifiedly, free from discrimination and with the opportunity to fulfill their participation.

Dr. Haque highlighted the need for inclusive healthcare services and the importance of PPD member countries supporting each other with resources and expertise. In this regard, he stated that a few of PPD member countries are equipped with adequate healthcare commodities, family planning commodities, essential drugs and technologies. These nations will help other nations find answers to their consumption-related issues.

Dr. Sikdar urged for ongoing SSTC collaboration to ensure that no one is left behind, particularly in the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts. He emphasized for continue efforts to work together, share innovative solutions, and support each other to create a world where everyone can live a dignified life, free from discrimination, with opportunities to participate fully in society.

Vote of thanks: Prof. Mohamed Douagi
President Director General, National Board of Family and
Population, Ministry of Health, Government of Tunisia, and
Secretary of PPD Board



I would also like to highlight the importance of the Dhaka Declaration, the result of our joint work which summarizes a little the ways in which we should all be directed. Indeed, it marks an important milestone in our commitments in health and reproduction medicine. It reaffirms our desire to work together to improve the quality of reproductive health care, to ensure universal access to these services and to promote everyone's rights in health and well-being.

Professor Douagi emphasized the necessity of innovative mechanisms for mobilizing funds by involving government policies, private partners, pharmaceutical companies, and banks to meet their objectives. The importance of human rights and sexual and reproductive health, especially considering the environmental changes and the role that emerging technologies like artificial intelligence play in managing and sharing up-to-date data. He spoke on mechanisms such as involving government policies and by associating countries, which can mobilize more funds to achieve objectives.

Professor Douagi then emphasized the importance of the Dhaka Declaration, which sums up the joint efforts and commitments to improving reproductive health care quality, ensuring universal access to these services, and promoting health and well-being rights for all.

Adoption of the Dhaka Declaration

Members come up with significant commitments and declarations to change and be a more significant part of contributing leaders in addressing global population challenges through promoting South-South solutions. In response, the members advanced their commitments for partners, particularly UNFPA, UNOSSC, WHO, and donors, as well as the private sector. Here are the PPD members' and other global leaders' commitments, which were adopted as the "**Dhaka Declaration**":

1. **Commit** to closing gender gaps and ensuring the full, equal, effective, and meaningful engagement and participation of women as decision-makers in the economy.
2. **Commit** to the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action for achieving the three zeroes: zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices.
3. **Commit** to expanding the digital workspace and building digital infrastructure, leveraging digital transformation opportunities and boosting sustainable growth by emphasizing the importance of generating and utilizing data for evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.
4. **We commit** to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal health care, and comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education.
5. **We commit** to actively involving young people at all stages of policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and creating opportunities for youth leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation, thereby maximizing human capital in realizing the demographic dividend.
6. **We commit** to promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing the growing socio-economic disparities, and enhancing social protection systems and ensuring equitable access and opportunities for all individuals and communities, particularly those marginalized and vulnerable.
7. **We commit** to expanding the digital workspace and building digital infrastructure, leveraging digital transformation opportunities and boosting sustainable growth by

emphasizing the importance of generating and utilizing data for evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.

8. We commit to adopting sustainable development strategies that promote climate resilience and mitigate environmental degradation by incorporating climate considerations into all aspects of national development planning.

9. Commit to promoting centers of excellence as accelerators for achieving ICPD and SDG goals.

3.2 PPD Accelerating ICPD Goals through 57th UNCPD

As part of the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD), a pivotal side event was organized to explore the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in accelerating progress toward ICPD PoA in UN HQ, New York. This high-level panel discussion, titled "South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an Accelerator for the Achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action," bring together global leaders and experts.

- South Africa (Lead Organizer)
- Partners in Population and Development (PPD) (Co-organizer)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (Co-organizer)

Objectives of the Panel Discussion

The session will center on how SSTC can act as a catalyst for achieving the ICPD PoA, with key objectives to:

Panelists:

- H.E. Dr. Douglas Mombeshora, Minister of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe
- H.E. Dr. Rokeya Sultana, State Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh
- H.E. Dr. Yu Xuejun, Vice Minister, National Health Commission, China
- H.E. Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias, Permanent Representative to the UN, Portugal
- Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director - Programme, UNFPA; Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations

Moderator:

- Mr. Thabani Buthelezi, Acting Deputy-Director-General, Department of Social Development, South Africa

Audience:

Delegates of PPD member states and Permanent Representatives to the UN Policymakers, international cooperation officials, and program implementers. UN staff, ICPD advocates, and SSTC practitioners.

Enhance SSTC Dynamism

Delve into strategies for making SSTC more effective and responsive to ICPD goals.

Leverage New Technologies

Explore ways to share and scale innovations and technological advancements through SSTC.

Foster Triangular Cooperation

Engage donor nations and institutions to strengthen triangular cooperation.

Support Non-State Actors

Encourage the active involvement of NGOs, youth, women, and private sector stakeholders in SSTC initiatives.

Demonstrate Impact

Identify best practices for showcasing the tangible results and impacts of SSTC.

Context and Significance

The 57th UNCPD Session provides an essential platform for assessing ICPD PoA's progress and its alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Cairo ICPD PoA, the event serves as an opportunity for global reflection on achievements to date and the pathway forward.

South Africa, as the PPD Board Chair, alongside UNFPA, is leading this conversation to emphasize SSTC as a powerful vehicle for advancing global development. With SSTC, countries can effectively share resources, technology, and knowledge, fostering collaboration and mutual support. This panel discussion is more than a dialogue; it is an opportunity to:

Gain valuable insights from renowned experts and policymakers about the future of SSTC.

Learn from successful SSTC initiatives that have impacted population and development positively.

Engage in constructive discussions that strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development.

A Call to Action

On April 30, 2024, this transformative dialogue will bring us closer to achieving ICPD goals by harnessing the power of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Through collaborative commitment and innovation, we can build a sustainable and equitable future for all. Together, "let's drive progress and create lasting change".



Session on Political commitment adaption on 3rd May 2024



PPD's Side Event on 1st May 2024



Session on Political commitment adaption on 3rd May 2024

3.3. PPD with Global Leaders

A. Progress Review and Future Strategic Planning: High-Level Meeting Between PPD and UNFPA

Partners in Population and Development (PPD), a pioneering institution in South-South Cooperation (SSC) for reproductive health and population development, held a strategic meeting with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to review progress in 2024 and align on future collaborative efforts. As a long-standing partner and an initiative born from the 1994 ICPD, PPD continues to work closely with UNFPA under the Intercountry Cooperation Project, launched in 2018 to strengthen SSC mechanisms among member countries.

This high-level meeting was convened to present the 2024 progress report and outline plans for the next phase of collaboration. The meeting was attended by the following senior representatives from UNFPA:

- **Ms. Julia Bunting**, Director, Programme Division, UNFPA
- **Dr. Sathyanarayanan Doraiswamy**, Chief, Operation Support and Quality Assurance Branch, Policy and Strategy Division, UNFPA
- **Mr. Bobby M. Olarte**, Senior Adviser, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Programme Division, UNFPA
- **Ms. Christine Ong**, Finance Associate, Programme Division, UNFPA

Key Discussion Topics:

1. **Renewal of the Implementing Partner Agreement (2025–2029)** between PPD and UNFPA to continue joint programming and technical cooperation.
2. **Support for the 22nd International Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSC in Population and Development (IIMC 2025)**, tentatively scheduled to be hosted by China or Vietnam.
3. **Capacity Building Workshops for SSC National Focal Points**, aimed at strengthening the global promotion and institutionalization of SSC.
4. **Training for National Task Forces** to enhance their capacity in integrating SSC frameworks into national strategies.
5. **Joint Side Event at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2025)**, to be held from 3–6 November 2025 in Colombia.
6. **Co-hosting a High-Level Strategic Planning Meeting on SSC in Dhaka**, tentatively scheduled for April/May 2025.
7. **Support for organizing a Side Event at the 58th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD)** in April 2025.
8. **Joint participation at the South-South Global Development Expo 2025**, through a co-hosted side event showcasing SSC successes and innovations.

Meeting Outcomes:

1. **Renewed Commitment**: UNFPA confirmed its continued collaboration with PPD under a new strategic contract for 2025–2029.
2. **Submission of Work Plan**: PPD formally submitted a costed Work Plan for 2025, amounting to USD 356,000, for UNFPA's review and approval.
3. **Next Steps**: UNFPA will assess the proposed plan and approve the funding accordingly, enabling the joint execution of upcoming activities.

B. Forging Strategic Partnerships for South-South Cooperation: PPD's Meeting with UNOSSC

As part of its high-level engagements during the Summit for the Future 2024, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) held a strategic dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The purpose of the meeting was to explore avenues for collaboration and to build on the outcomes of 2019. MoU signed between the two institutions during PPD's Annual Governance Meeting in Tunisia.

UNOSSC Participants:

- **Ms. Dima Al-Khatib**, Director, UNOSSC
- **Mr. Shams Banihani**, Intergovernmental Policy Specialist, UNOSSC
- **Ms. Serena Y. Park**, Partnership Analyst, UNOSSC

Key Discussion Topics:

1. Renewal and Reframing of the UNOSSC-PPD MoU: While the MoU signed in 2019 was due for renewal, Ms. Al-Khatib proposed focusing instead on tangible, results-based joint activities for greater impact and visibility.

2. Partnership on IBSA and India Fund Initiatives: Exploring collaboration to implement technical cooperation projects for the benefit of IBSA countries (India, Brazil, South Africa) and other developing nations through the IBSA Fund and India Fund for SSC.

3. Implementation of Evidence-Based Projects: Joint planning of small grants and best-practice replication initiatives to support developing countries with technical assistance, with PPD serving as the implementing agency and UNOSSC providing monitoring and evaluation.

4. Leveraging UNOSSC's Strategic Framework:

- Enabling policymakers to make informed decisions through SSC-focused data and tools.
- Enhancing the UN system's role in supporting SSC.
- Helping countries institutionalize SSC into their national strategies.
- Joint development of an International E-Journal on SSC, promoting thought leadership and case-based learning.

5. Joint Resource Mobilization: Developing proposals and engaging in dialogue with emerging and developed economies to secure funding for SSC initiatives.

6. Engagement in Global Policy Processes: Aligning efforts with major global agendas such as the "Pact for the Future", through high-level forums to influence outcome documents, particularly advocating for demographic diversity and sustainable development.

7. Visibility at Global Platforms: Promotion of SSC programs during the SSC Global Expo, G20, and BRICS Summits, showcasing successful models and innovations.

8. Joint Hosting of the 22nd International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC) on SSC in Population and Development: Confirmed collaboration between PPD, UNFPA, and the Government of Vietnam for the 2025 IIMC in October, building on the current year's conference co-hosted by Bangladesh, UNFPA, and PPD.

Meeting Outcomes:

1 PPD and UNOSSC agreed to jointly implement **2-3 concrete activities in 2025**, with a clearly defined and costed budget.

2 Both organizations committed to **demonstrating country-level SSC experiences** and scaling up effective programs.

3. A structured communication mechanism will be established to ensure **timely updates and coordination** on progress and deliverables.

4. While the formal renewal of the MoU was set aside, the commitment to strategic, result-oriented collaboration was strongly reinforced.

C. Strategic Dialogue on Population Ageing: PPD's High-Level Meeting with UNFPA Innovation Wing

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) held a pivotal strategic meeting with Mr. Lin of the Innovation Wing of UNFPA, on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), to explore collaboration on one of the most pressing global demographic shifts: population ageing.

Mr. Lin, a long-time advocate and partner of PPD since 2018, has supported and guided the organisation's South-South Cooperation efforts. The meeting served as a timely platform to revisit shared priorities and to align on a comprehensive strategy addressing ageing and health care in developing countries.

Key Discussion Topics:

1. Emerging Priorities in Global Ageing and Healthcare: Recognizing the increasing burden of ageing populations globally, the participants emphasized the need for a coordinated South-South response.

2. Establishing a Global Network on Ageing: Discussions focused on launching a dedicated South-South and Triangular Cooperation Network on Population Ageing, involving PPD, UNFPA, BRICS, and G20 countries.

3. Support from the Government of China: China has committed to hosting and supporting the development of a global platform for ageing policy, including regional seminars, advocacy meetings, and knowledge exchange.

4. PPD's Proven Leadership in Ageing Policy: PPD shared its history of work in this area, including:

- Establishing a **Global Commission on Ageing in 2013**, comprising 15 member countries with WHO technical support.
- Conducting **four international seminars on ageing** in partnership with the Government of China.
- Publishing a widely recognized **compendium of 11 best practices** on ageing programs and policies.

5. Five-Year Plan on Ageing: UNFPA expressed enthusiasm for partnering with PPD to develop and implement a five-year action plan that addresses ageing-related challenges across developing countries.

Meeting Outcomes:

• **Engagement of Global Stakeholders:** Involve China, BRICS, G20, and national ageing agencies to foster an integrated, collaborative approach to ageing.

• **SSTC-Driven Policy and Programmatic Platform:** Utilize South-South Cooperation to facilitate policy dialogue, research, joint advocacy, and program innovation focused on the ageing agenda.

• **Institutional Framework and Mobilization Strategy**

1. Leverage UNFPA's and PPD's convening power to form a multi-stakeholder alliance dedicated to sharing best practices and resources.
2. Organize a global consultative meeting with stakeholders to generate interest and secure political and financial commitment.
3. Draft and circulate an outcome document ahead of the conference for member input and endorsement.

• **Resource Mobilization**

1. Submit a project proposal to the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) to establish a China-UNFPA Facility on Ageing and SSTC.
2. Explore additional funding avenues from partner governments and development institutions.



**Meeting with UNFPA on Future Strategic Partnership
during Summit of the Future**



Meeting with UNOSSC

Meeting with UNFPA on Ageing

3.4 Global Dialogues 2024: Advancing ICPD30 Through Youth, Demographic Diversity, and Global Partnerships

In 2024, two landmark ICPD30 Global Dialogues were convened by UNFPA in collaboration with Governments and key development partners, underscoring the urgency of shaping inclusive population and development policies in line with the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

1. ICPD30 Global Youth Dialogue – Cotonou, Benin (April 4–5, 2024)

Theme: “A New Generation’s Vision for the ICPD”

Organized by: Government of Benin, UNFPA, Denmark, and the Netherlands

This high-level dialogue brought together young leaders, policymakers, civil society, and development partners to highlight **youth-led solutions for advancing the ICPD Programme of Action**. The event served as a platform for young people to voice their priorities on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, education, and climate resilience in a rapidly changing world.

Key Outcomes:

- **Youth Declaration on ICPD30:** A formal call to action by youth representatives, outlining their vision for an equitable and inclusive future.
- Strengthened **partnership between PPD and the Government of Benin**, paving the way for future youth-focused South-South Cooperation initiatives.
- Commitment to include youth in national and global decision-making platforms related to population and development.

2. ICPD30 Global Dialogue – Dhaka, Bangladesh (May 15–16, 2024)

Theme: “Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development”

Organized by: Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with UNFPA, Bulgaria, Japan, and PPD

Hosted in Dhaka, this global dialogue addressed the intersection of **demographic transitions, ageing populations, youth bulges, and sustainable development**. The event served as a critical preparatory platform for advancing the **ICPD30 agenda**, with PPD playing a key strategic and convening role.



Key Outcomes:

- **Youth Declaration on ICPD30:** A formal call to action by youth representatives, outlining their vision for an equitable and inclusive future.
- Strengthened partnership between PPD and the Government of Benin, paving the way for future youth-focused South-South Cooperation initiatives.
- Commitment to include youth in national and global decision-making platforms related to population and development.

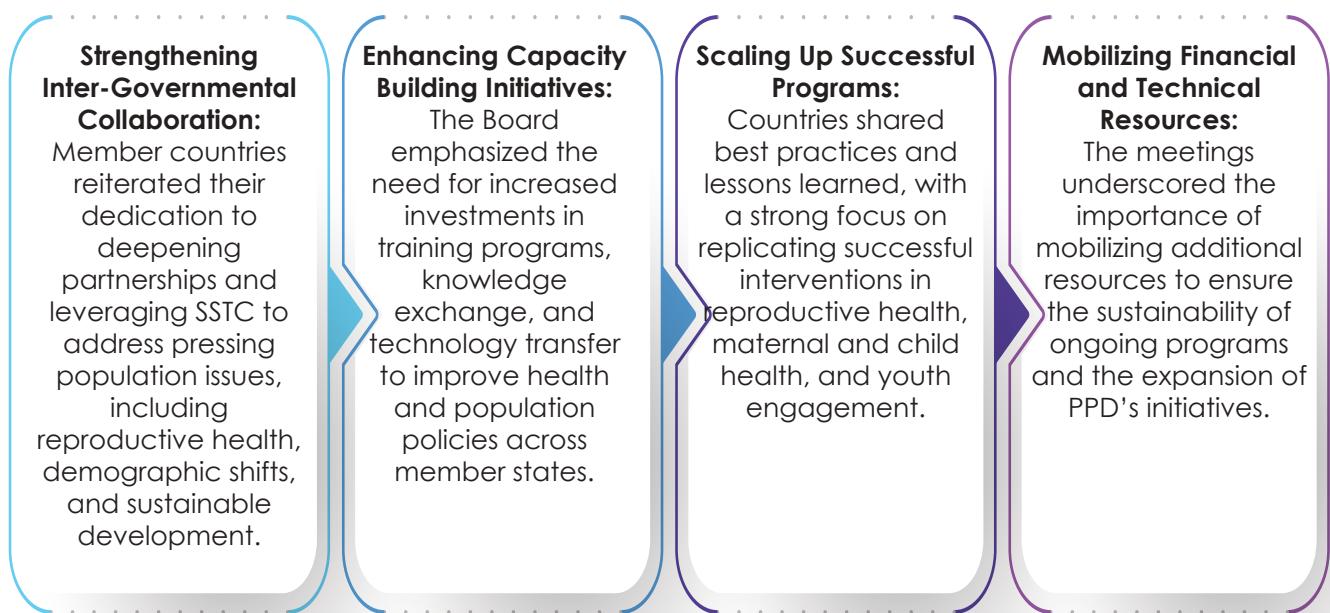
4. PPD's Governance Activities

4.1. Strengthening South-South Cooperation: Outcomes and Future Direction from PPD's 39th Executive Committee and 27th Board Meeting.

The 39th Executive Committee Meeting and the 27th Board Meeting of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) were successfully convened at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh. These pivotal governance meetings, hosted by the Government of Bangladesh;

Strategic Discussions and Key Outcomes

The primary focus of these high-level meetings was to discuss PPD's strategic direction, review ongoing initiatives, and develop a framework for future projects under the framework of SSTC. Key agenda points included:



Commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) : The Future of South-South Cooperation

A key outcome of the discussions was a reaffirmed commitment to aligning PPD's efforts on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The meeting participants emphasized the importance of universal health coverage, access to quality reproductive health services, and addressing demographic transitions to achieve sustainable development.

PPD's leadership, in collaboration with its member countries, is committed to further strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an effective mechanism for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy advocacy. The outcomes of the 39th Executive Committee and 27th Board Meeting will serve as a guiding framework for future initiatives, reinforcing the organization's role as a global leader in population and development cooperation. The strong political commitment demonstrated by member states, PPD remains well-positioned to drive impactful programs and policies that improve the lives of millions across the Global South. The success of these Governance meetings underscores the organization's unwavering commitment to fostering partnerships, promoting innovative solutions, and ensuring a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Some Snapshots from PPD's 39th EXCO and 27th Board Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh 2024





Honorable Board Members and PCCs visited the PPD Secretariat



5. PPD staff's participation in Global Events

5.1. ICPD+30 Regional Seminar: The Role of PPD in Advocating for Population and Development Issues in Asia and the Pacific

In a significant gathering at Century Hall II, New Century Beijing, stakeholders from across Asia and the Pacific convened for the ICPD+30 Regional Seminar to deliberate on the pivotal role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in advancing the ICPD Agenda. The seminar, held on April 25th, 2024, brought together esteemed delegates, experts, and representatives from various organizations to discuss strategies for promoting sustainable development through the implementation of the ICPD agenda.

The event commenced with opening remarks from representatives of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Ms. Tahrima Khan, Senior Program Officer, an intergovernmental organization comprising 27 developing countries. Acknowledging the significant contributions of the Chinese Government towards PPD and South-South Cooperation (SSC), speakers lauded China's leadership in advocating for population and development issues. Dr. Yu Xuejun, the Honorable Vice Minister of the National Health Commission and President of China Family Planning Association and PPD Board, was recognized for his instrumental role in advancing the ICPD agenda.

Ms. Khan presented "SSCAF Project Contribution in reducing MMR in Bangladesh to achieve ICPD PoA and SDG30" - The SSCAF Project, funded by the Chinese government, aims to provide technical assistance to Bangladesh in reducing maternal mortality rates. Through collaborative efforts, the project endeavors to enhance medical infrastructure, supply essential resources, and offer training programs to healthcare professionals, particularly in managing postpartum hemorrhage effectively.

Central to the discussions was the pivotal role of Civil Society Organizations in shaping and implementing the ICPD agenda. Participants underscored the importance of CSOs in advocating for the rights and dignity of individuals, particularly in the context of sustainable development efforts. CSOs were hailed for their innovation, service delivery, and knowledge sharing, which complemented government initiatives in achieving the objectives of the ICPD. The International Inter-Ministerial Conference (IIMC), a global platform established by PPD to promote South-South Cooperation (SSC), was lauded for its role in facilitating peer learning and best practice sharing among countries. Through initiatives like the Chinese government's South-South Cooperation Assistant Fund (SSCAF) Project, PPD has made tangible contributions to addressing critical issues such as maternal mortality. The SSCAF project in Bangladesh, aimed at reducing postpartum hemorrhage, serves as a model for effective collaboration between government and civil society. Research findings presented at the seminar demonstrated the positive impact of the SSCAF project in reducing postpartum hemorrhage in Bangladesh. As a result, there have been calls for scaling up the project to further enhance its reach and impact. The success of initiatives like the SSCAF project underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in achieving the objectives of the ICPD agenda.

While progress has been made in advancing the ICPD agenda, challenges persist, particularly in ensuring universal access to reproductive rights and addressing issues such as

child marriage and maternal mortality. However, through sustained collaboration and the meaningful engagement of Civil Society Organizations, stakeholders expressed optimism about achieving a future where no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development. The ICPD+30 Regional Seminar served as a platform for fruitful discussions and knowledge sharing, paving the way for continued efforts towards realizing the goals of the ICPD agenda in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

5.2. Summit of the Future 2024 and the Adoption of the Pact for the Future

The Summit for the Future 2024 brought together global leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the future of sustainable development, multilateral cooperation, and innovative strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The summit focused on strengthening international collaboration to address pressing global challenges, including population dynamics, health equity, and socio-economic development.

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) played a vital role in these high-level discussions, with its Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Oliver Zambuko, Senior Program Manager Dr. Nazrul Islam, and Senior Program Officer Ms. Tahrima Khan actively engaging in key dialogues alongside representatives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other global stakeholders.



Keynote remarks from representatives of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) Ms. Tahrima Khan, Senior Program officer



Dr. Yu Xuejun, the Honorable Vice Minister of the National Health Commission and President of China Family Planning Association and PPD Board



ICPD +30 Regional Seminar at Beijing 2024



Mr. Hu Hongtao Senior Advisor to PPD on South-South Cooperation



ICPD + 30 Regional Seminar at Beijing 2024

The Action Days featured inclusive discussions centered on three core themes: digital and technology, peace and security, and sustainable development and financing. Special attention was also given to future generations, with youth-led sessions emphasizing intergenerational equity.

Key Outcomes:

- Adoption of the **Pact for the Future**, reflecting global consensus on multilateral reform.
- Commitment to inclusive, representative, and results-driven international cooperation.
- Agreement on **follow-up mechanisms**, including:
 1. High-level review of the Global Digital Compact in **2027**
 2. Plenary meeting on the Declaration on Future Generations in **2028**
 3. Heads of State and Government meeting in **2028** for a full Pact review
- Alignment with upcoming global processes like the **Financing for Development Conference**, **World Summit for Social Development**, and **UN Climate Change Conferences**.

5.3. PPD Joins the 9th African Population Conference to Champion Africa's Transformation Goals in Malawi

On May 20, 2024, the 9th African Population Conference (APC) commenced in Malawi, bringing together leaders, researchers, and advocates to discuss Africa's progress towards sustainable development goals. This year's theme, "**Road to 2030: Leveraging Africa's Human Capital to Achieve Transformation in a World of Uncertainty**" speaks to the critical importance of investing in Africa's people to foster resilience and development amid global challenges. The conference, organized by the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) in collaboration with Partners in Population and Development (PPD), AFIDEP, and UNFPA, will run through May 24.

Opening Remarks from PPD's Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Oliver Zambuko

Mr. Oliver Zambuko, Officer-in-Charge of PPD, implied the unique opportunity presented by this conference to unite stakeholders from across sectors. "As we gather here, we are reminded of the transformative potential of Africa's human capital," he said. "By prioritizing collaboration, research, and evidence-based policymaking, we can harness Africa's population growth to drive progress toward our shared vision for 2030."

Identify Knowledge Gaps: Through workshops and sessions, participants examine pressing issues related to population and development, addressing gaps in knowledge and identifying actionable insights for future research.

Apply Research for Impact: A core goal of the conference is translating research findings into policies that can meaningfully improve the lives of African people.

Foster Multisectoral Collaboration: The event welcomes policymakers, researchers, civil society representatives, international organizations, and NGOs, all contributing perspectives on how to optimize Africa's demographic dividends.

Pathway to 2030

The APC explored priority areas, including education, health, gender equality, youth empowerment, and economic opportunities, all integral to achieving Africa's 2030 vision. By leveraging the continent's demographic trends and potential, the conference seeks to equip stakeholders with knowledge and strategies that can propel sustainable transformation.

As this significant gathering unfolds, PPD reaffirms its commitment to collaborating with African nations to develop evidence-informed policies that promote inclusive growth. We look forward to a productive conference and the shared commitment of all stakeholders to shaping a prosperous future for Africa.



5.4 Inter-Regional Expert Meeting on the Measurement of South-South Cooperation in Doha, Qatar

June 4-6, 2024, Doha, Qatar, hosted the Inter-Regional Expert Meeting on the Measurement of South-South Cooperation (SSC), where global experts gathered to discuss the critical importance of measuring SSC for effective planning and implementation. The meeting was graced by a keynote address from His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Aziz Al Nuaimi, a distinguished member of the National Council of Qatar.

Framework for SSC Measurement:

The meeting recognized the development of a common framework for measuring SSC, which underscores the vital role of data in planning and executing SSC initiatives. This framework articulates the essential elements needed for effective SSC, bridging both political and technical workstreams.

Advocacy and Capacity Building:

Advocacy and capacity building emerged as central strategies to enhance the visibility and transparency of SSC measurement. It was emphasized that these strategies are crucial for ensuring that stakeholders understand the significance of SSC data in decision-making processes.

Strengthening Institutional Arrangements:

Participants discussed the pressing need to assess and enhance institutional arrangements within countries of the Global South. Documenting best practices in SSC measurement was highlighted as a key component for building robust partnerships and improving overall effectiveness.

Collaboration with UN Agencies and IGOs:

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) leads the development of the measurement framework, with support from other UN agencies, including the UN Statistics Commission, UNDP, and UNOSSC. Additionally, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as Brazil ABC and donor entities like the Islamic Development Bank are integral to this collaborative effort.

Impact on PPD's Work:

The measurement framework holds significant value for the work of Partners in Population and Development (PPD). It presents an opportunity to quantify the value of SSC within member countries and assess the potential impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By integrating this framework into our initiatives, PPD aims to strengthen its contribution to sustainable development through enhanced measurement and analysis of SSC activities. This expert meeting was a pivotal step towards creating a comprehensive and effective framework for SSC measurement, fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, and advancing our collective efforts toward sustainable development.



6. PPD's Active Participation in the Celebration of World Population Day 2024

On July 11, 2024, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) joined global stakeholders in celebrating World Population Day under the theme "Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data for a Resilient and Equitable Future." The event was marked by high-level engagements, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy efforts to highlight the importance of data-driven policies in addressing population challenges.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) of Bangladesh commemorated the day with great enthusiasm, bringing together stakeholders from upazila, district, division, and national levels to reinforce the commitment to using inclusive data for sustainable development. Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare and PPD Board, Dr. Samanta Lal Sen, MP, graced the event as the chief guest, underscoring the importance of maternal and child health services. He emphasized that healthcare providers to ensure all pregnant mothers receive essential health check-ups for safe deliveries. He also commended UNFPA for its continued support in strengthening Bangladesh's healthcare system.

Oliver Zambuko, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of PPD, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the PPD Secretariat for their meticulous planning and dedication in organizing the 2024 PPD Annual

Events. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving equitable development outcomes.

Musa Faal, a PPD scholarship holder, presented at a special event organized by the Social Development Department of South Africa in collaboration with North-West University. He shared insights on integrating population dynamics into policymaking, with a strong focus on the role of young leaders in shaping inclusive development strategies. The South African event brought together a diverse group of academics, policymakers, and development practitioners to discuss pressing population-related challenges, including poverty alleviation, gender equity, and access to healthcare. The discussions reinforced the need for evidence-based policies and international cooperation to address the complex interplay between population trends and sustainable development.

World Population Day 2024 provided an invaluable platform for PPD and its partners to highlight the urgent need for inclusive, data-driven solutions to tackle global population challenges. By leveraging South-South Cooperation, PPD continues to drive meaningful policy actions and capacity-building initiatives to improve reproductive health, education, and equitable growth across its 27-member countries and beyond.





**PPD -Africa
Regional Office
(ARO)**

7.1 NEAPACOH 2024: Towards ICPD 30 and Universal Health Coverage

The Meeting of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH) was held on 28-29 February 2024 in Maseru, Lesotho. Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), in close collaboration with the Parliament of Lesotho and other partners, organized a Network of African Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH). The theme for the meeting this year was "Towards ICPD 30 and Achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Imperatives for accelerated implementation and the role of Parliamentarians. The meeting was a platform for discussing, interrogating and sharing good practices in accelerating the achievement of the ICPD agenda and UHC. The meeting further provided the opportunity for reporting progress and sharing lessons learned in the implementation of the commitments of the Call for Action.

PPD Secretariat's participation in NEAPACOH added more value to the event. ICPD commitment is to the Global South and its development. Mr. Oliver Zambuko, Officer in Charge of PPD attended it the meeting. Ensure and facilitate his smooth participation in the event very actively. Actively coordinate with PPD ARO to collect the invitation letter, concept of the event and other relevant documents to ensure PPD Secretariat's Participation in NEAPACOH.



Pre - Meeting NEAPACOH 2024



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-1



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-1



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-1



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-1



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-1



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-2



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-2



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-2



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-2



NEAPACOH 2024
Day-2

The meeting, themed "Towards ICPD@30 and achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Imperatives for accelerated implementation and the role of Parliamentarians," focused on accelerating access to sexual and reproductive health services, increasing domestic health financing, strengthening health security, and advancing UHC in Africa.

Provided a valuable platform for Kenyan Parliamentarians, especially those from the Health, Environment, and Finance Committees, to reflect on the Maseru Call to Action and share progress on their commitments made during the Lesotho meeting. These commitments included increasing investments in social health insurance, prioritizing domestic resource mobilization, and strengthening primary health care systems.



Award Ceremony at NEAPACOH 2024

Key outcomes of the meeting included:

1. Increased awareness among Kenyan Parliamentarians regarding the critical issues raised during the 15th NEAPACOH meeting.
2. Progress shared on the implementation of the 2024 NEAPACOH commitments and the Maseru Call to Action.
3. Strategies explored for accelerating domestic health financing to achieve UHC and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya.

Approximately 15 members of the Kenyan National Assembly participated in the meeting, including those from the Health, Environment, and Finance Committees, as well as officials from the NCPD and the Ministry of Health.

7.2 Follow-Up Meetings on Implementation of the 2024 Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) Commitments

Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), in partnership with the Network of African Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH) annually organizes the NEAPACOH meetings. The 2024 NEAPACOH meeting was the 15th in a series and was organized under the theme "Towards ICPD 30 and achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Imperatives for accelerated implementation and the role of Parliamentarians."



Health Coverage (UHC): Imperatives for accelerated implementation and the role of Parliamentarians."

PPDARO organized follow-up meetings to track implementation progress of the NEAPACOH commitments in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, and Zambia. In Uganda, a Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) was developed and approved to integrate health into the national climate change adaptation plan to increase the resilience of health systems and communities, reported by Mr. Samuel Samson Omwa, former Ag. Director General, National Population Council.

In Zambia, the follow-up meeting with Members of Parliament on progress made towards NEAPACOH commitments the Chairperson of NEAPACOH, Hon Mokhethu Makhalanyane, MP, informed participants that many Parliaments had benefited from the south-to-south

corporation, which was being spearheaded under the auspices of NEAPACOH. He mentioned that the cooperation resulted in key developments for regional Parliaments.

The Chairperson credited NEAPACOH for monitoring the health progress of Member countries. For instance, he recognized strides made by the Parliament of Lesotho towards actualizing the fifteen commitments it made during the same meeting. Notably, the commitments included reviewing and developing a policy and legal framework aimed at advancing UHC; increasing domestic financing; and advocating for digital solutions in the management of patients, among others.

Dr Kalila, together with other Zambian parliamentarians, reflected on the notable actions keenly pursued by the Parliament of Zambia with regard to the five commitments. Zambian parliamentarians also observed that from 2022, public expenditure allocations to the health sector were increasing in nominal terms, from K12.4 billion in 2022, to K16.1 billion in 2023, K18.7 billion in 2024, and K21.5 billion in 2025.

While in Malawi, Mr. Mugwira informed the meeting that a tracking tool had been developed to track how countries are faring in terms of implementation of commitments. He highlighted the key objectives for organizing NEAPACOH meetings, which he broadly summarized as bordering on commitments, implementation of the commitments, reporting progress, and re-committing. Finally, Mr. Mugirwa urged the members of parliament to play an active role in the leadership and governance of NEAPACOH, currently held by Lesotho. In this wake, he encouraged Malawi to contest for the NEAPACOH leadership position in 2025 given that Malawi has been an active member of NEAPACOH, having not missed any meeting.

Hon. Dr. Matthews Ngwale provided updates on progress or efforts Malawi Parliamentarians have made on the implementation of NEAPACOH commitments, in collaboration with other stakeholders. He provided the following updates under each of the 7 NEAPACOH commitments Parliamentarians from Malawi committed to at the Maseru meeting.



Commitment 1: Advocate for tracking all health-related budget allocations in other MDAs to be included in the calculation of the Abuja target:

- i. Parliament lobbied and continues to lobby for increased budgetary allocation of the Health Sector to meet the Abuja declaration. In the current Financial Year, the allocation was at around 12%;
- ii. Parliament recommended tracking and inclusion of health-related resources channeled to other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to form part of the health sector budget; and
- iii. MOH is currently conducting the National Health Account (NHA) assessment to track all resources from Ministries, Departments and Agencies and non-profit organizations to estimate all resources from the Government. The NHA report is expected to be out next month

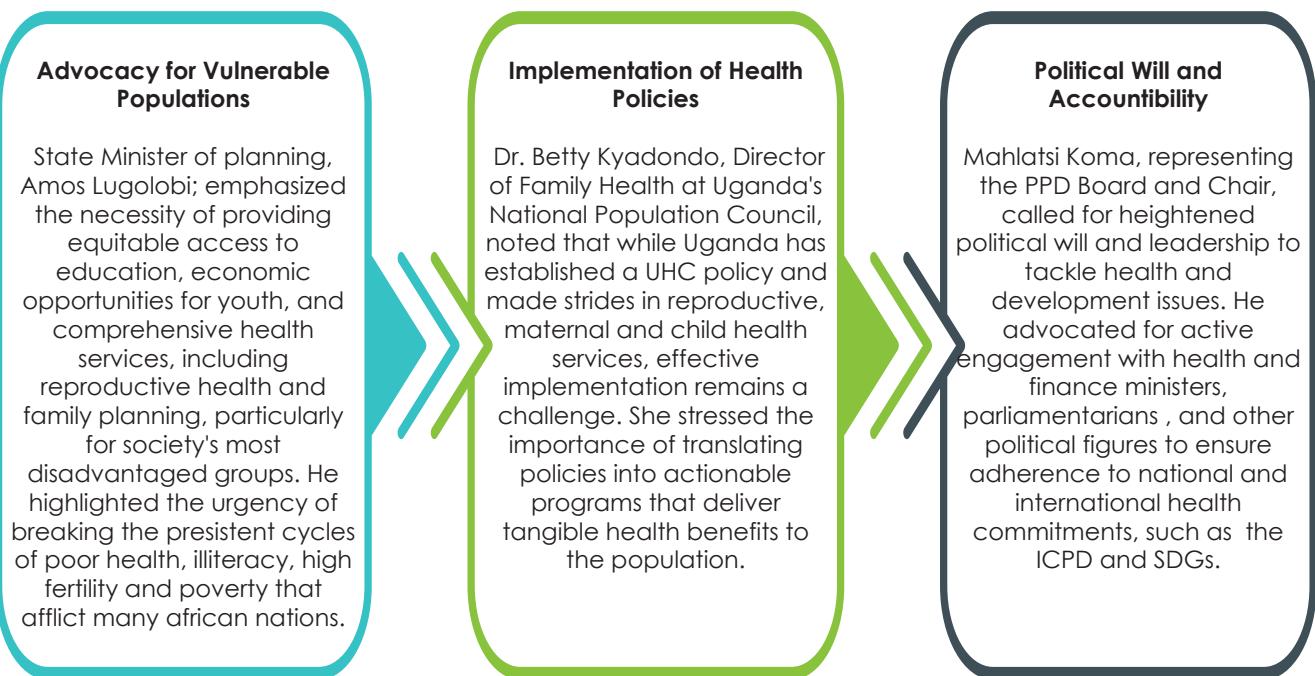
Commitment 2: Continue to lobby for increased budgetary allocation to the Health Sector to operationalize SRHR policies:

- i. Parliament lobbied and continues to lobby for an increase in resources allocated to Family planning. Allocation to commodities has increased from MK570m to MK700m in the 2024/25 budget.
- ii. Parliament, through the SADC-PF project on SRHR, continues to lobby for tracking of resources channeled to other MDAs, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations and other Civil Society Organizations that receive funding from development partners on SRHR to be pooled together and coordinate SRHR activities.

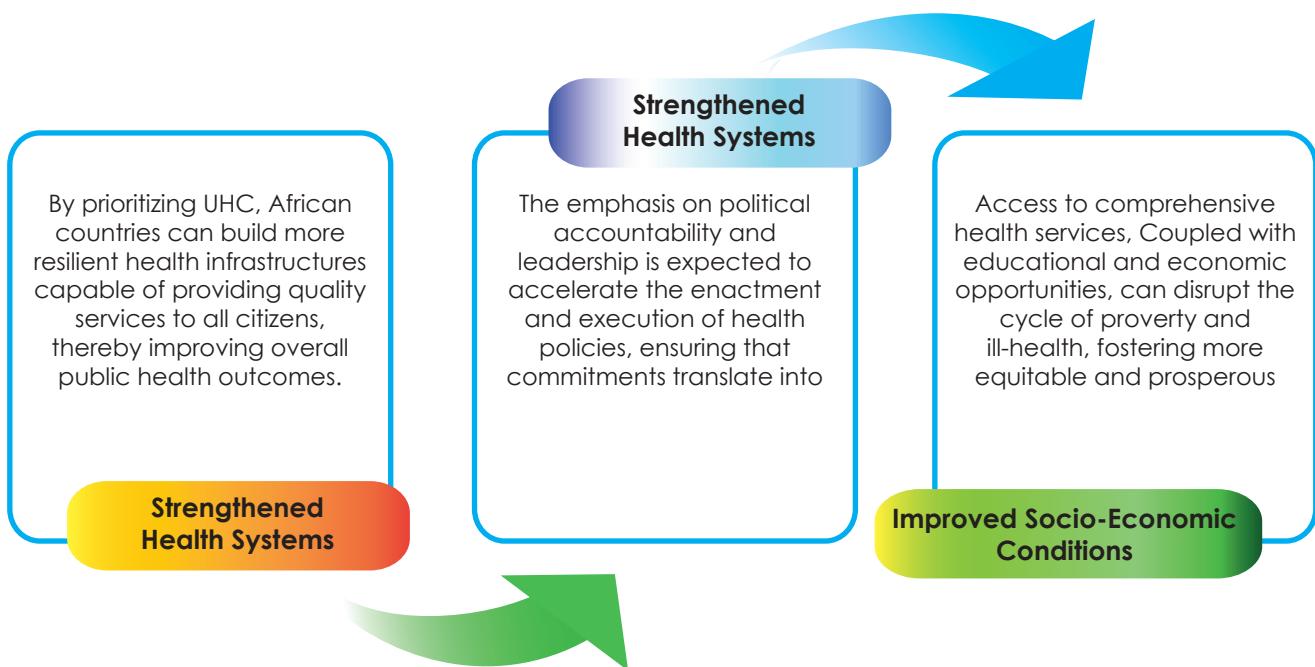
7.3 Accelerating Universal Health Coverage in Africa: A Call to Action

In August 2024, during a meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, delegates from 13-member countries of the Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO) emphasized the urgent need to prioritize universal health coverage (UHC) across the continent. State Minister of Planning, Amos Lugolobi, highlighted the importance of advocating for accessible education, economic opportunities for youth, and comprehensive health services, including reproductive health and family planning, especially for society's most vulnerable segments. The effective implementation of existing agreements and initiatives is crucial to breaking the persistent cycles of poor health, illiteracy, high fertility, and poverty prevalent in many African nations.

Mahlatsi Koma, representing the PPD Board Chair, called for enhanced leadership and political commitment to address health, population, and development challenges. He urged active engagement with political leaders, including health and finance ministers and parliamentarians, to hold them accountable for national and international health commitments, such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Potential Outcomes



This gathering highlighted a unified resolve among African nations to expedite the achievement of UHC, ensuring that all individuals have access to essential health services without financial hardship.



7.4 The 14th Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) Coordination meeting, June 10-11/2024, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The EARHN Secretariat, PPD ARO convened the 14th Annual Coordination meeting on June 11th and 12th at the Giraffe Beach Hotel in Dar es Salaam to share progress, experiences and best practices on the implementation of the EARHN Strategic Plan (2022-2026) and the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) Declaration. The declaration, adopted by member states at the African Union (AU) Summit in 2019, called upon all member states to increase domestic investments to improve health and health financing systems, taking country contexts into account to facilitate efforts towards achieving and sustaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC) within financial means. A total of 35 participants attended the EARHN meeting.

The meeting provided a forum for participants from government ministries, departments, agencies, civil society organizations, and religious institutions to discuss advocacy for reproductive health, maternal and child health programmes, health financing, and population, health and environment (PHE). The EARHN countries face several RH challenges that demand collective and coordinated efforts to overcome. For instance, while these countries are still grappling with relatively high fertility and population growth rates, marked by high dependency ratios, all of which threaten economic growth and poverty reduction endeavors. An increasing number of adolescents who are unable to access appropriate information and services are subjected to unplanned pregnancies in these countries, where contraceptive prevalence rates are still low and unmet need for family planning (FP) services is high. These countries are also confronted with relatively high illiteracy rates, poor infant and

maternal health, and high dependency of the health sector on donor support.

Country presentations delivered evidence needed, among others, to support decision-making in domestic resource mobilization for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP). At plenary and during group discussions, country delegates exchanged information on interventions that facilitated increased access to SRH/FP services among adolescents, as well as integrated PHE approaches, they applied. Each country developed an annual work plan in line with the ALM declaration to tackle specific country priorities while considering key lessons from cross-country engagement.

7.5 SMART Advocacy Capacity Strengthening Workshop in Malawi

The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO) are implementing the Advance Domestic Health Financing (ADHF) project. This initiative aims to strengthen domestic political will, resource allocation, and evidence-based policies, particularly in Primary Health Care (PHC) and women's health. The project aligns with government efforts on economic recovery and debt management, as well as commitments from the African Union's Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM), the Abuja declaration, ICPD+25, FP2030, and the SDGs.



The ADHF project seeks to capitalize on the momentum from ALM and influence political commitments in key countries like Malawi through targeted health financing strategies and reform plans.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in advocating for increased domestic financing and facilitating government-citizen dialogue. To enhance their advocacy efforts, AFIDEP and PPD ARO organized a three-day capacity-building training for CSOs in Zambia, focusing on advocacy and accountability for better health financing and resource efficiency.

The training achieved the following:



7.6 SMART Advocacy follow-ups

On Nov 21, 2024, PPDARO and AFIDEP under the ADHF project conducted a follow-up meeting on the implementation of SMART advocacy strategies. Participants shared experiences and updates on the implementation of the Smart Advocacy Objectives, received guidance and technical support on their advocacy strategy and best practices /impact stories were documented.

Driving impact in Kenya's health sector through strategic advocacy



Wrap up 2024

In 2024, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) significantly advanced its mission to foster South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in addressing critical population and development challenges. Through a range of impactful interventions, PPD demonstrated how collaborative, context-specific strategies can effectively respond to the diverse needs of member countries.

One of the year's major achievements was the successful replication of Ghana's adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) best practices in Uganda and Zimbabwe, where updated monitoring systems, trained peer educators, and integrated youth outreach services led to increased service uptake and improved adolescent health outcomes. Simultaneously, in Bangladesh, PPD partnered with China through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) to combat maternal mortality by scaling up the use of misoprostol, training 270 healthcare providers, and conducting nationwide awareness campaigns—demonstrating the effectiveness of South-South knowledge transfer and technology application.

PPD also played a critical role in shaping the global population agenda. It successfully convened the 21st International Inter-Ministerial Conference on ICPD30 in Dhaka, uniting 27 member countries around key priorities such as demographic resilience, universal health coverage, and gender equality. Strategic engagements with UNFPA and UNOSSC paved the way for renewed multi-year partnerships, joint programming, and the development of long-term initiatives such as a proposed Global Network on Population Ageing.

Throughout the year, PPD prioritized youth participation, institutional capacity building, and policy integration, ensuring that its efforts reached the most underserved populations while strengthening national systems for sustainability. The organization's active presence in global forums such as the Summit for the Future, World Population Day, and NEAPACOH 2024 further solidified its reputation as a leader in translating South-South Cooperation into concrete, scalable development solutions.

Collectively, these achievements affirm that South-South and Triangular Cooperation remains not only relevant but essential in realizing the ICPD Programme of Action and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in a rapidly evolving demographic and geopolitical landscape.



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