



Sixth Review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

**Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for the ICPD30 Review: Arab Region
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OVERVIEW

THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)

Adopted in 1994, represented a remarkable consensus among 179 Governments that individual human rights and dignity, including the equal rights of women and girls, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health, are a necessary precondition for sustainable development

Defined a set of goals and objectives related to population and sustainable development including, education; poverty; gender equality, equity, and women's empowerment; health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; and population distribution, urbanisation and migration, and addressed the specific needs of different population groups and the challenges they face in the context of demographic transitions, and environmental changes



2014 ICPD OPERATIONAL REVIEW

The Programme of Action covered a range of issues across a comprehensive, integrated agenda, but in practice a selective and sectoral approach to implementation.

A Global Operational Review was mandated by the UN General Assembly (resolution 65/234) and culminated in the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Report, provided evidence of an unfinished agenda and resulted in the UNGA extending the ICPD PoA, underscoring the need for a systematic, integrated and comprehensive approach to population and development



FINDINGS

Overwhelming support and consensus on the ICPD, reaffirming the core message of the Programme of Action: *that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity – across multiple sectors and throughout the life-course – is the foundation of sustainable development*

- Persisting gender gap in labour force participation: less pay for equal work; under-represented in positions of power; unpaid domestic work
- High levels of Gender Based Violence: 1 in 3 women report physical and/or sexual abuse - often by an intimate partner
- Need to strengthen health systems and quality of care: lack of universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and sexuality education
- Harness potential benefits of urbanisation: can reduce energy demand; economies of scale for health, welfare and education systems



• PATHS TO SUSTAINABILITY.

The operational review suggested a new framework for population and development beyond 2014 built around five thematic pillars:

- Dignity, human rights and non-discrimination for all;
- Lifelong investment in health, particularly for young people, universal access to SRH;
- Security of place and safe mobility;
- Sustainability, change in patterns of consumption;
- Governance and accountability;

A key objective of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review was to facilitate the integration of the population and development agenda into the 2030 Agenda including the SDGs and ensure meaningful development outcomes



Progress and challenges



The adoption of a rights-focused approach ensures that human dignity and equality always remains at the heart of ICPD issues and upholds the right to informed choice



• KEY AREAS OF PROGRESS •

- Countries in the region have made important commitments to tackle remaining inequalities
- Substantial progress towards improving girls' access to education; gender parity in primary education; literacy rates have improved, particularly for women.
- Progress on access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights in many countries in the region, and decline in infant, child and maternal death rates
- There has been progress in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, benefited from specific commitments, legislative changes, mainstreaming of gender into policies, and dedicated financial resources
- About half of the countries in the region have adopted laws or policies to support and promote women's political participation
- Average life expectancy in the region has increased significantly over the past decades



KEY CHALLENGES

- Quality of education; need education building on the capabilities and aspirations of children, young people, parents, families, and communities and that respond to local, national, and global needs
- Forced migration and displacement is a significant challenge due to numerous humanitarian crises
- Structural challenges: rigid social and gender norms and prevailing gender dynamics
- Stronger social protection systems are needed - gender equality, universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and protection from harmful practices such as FGM and child, early and forced marriage are integral parts of that
- GBV remains a major concern: the region has some of the highest prevalence rates of GBV in the world. WHO estimates that 40% of Arab women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime
- The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to an increase in GBV and harmful practices by exacerbating existing inequalities.



CURRENT TRENDS AND PATTERNS

- In terms of income and wealth, the world has never been more unequal
- Population dynamics and demographics have become more diverse: large youth populations in some countries and ageing populations in others
- The Arab region has the fastest growing youth population, approx. 60% of the population is under 30 years old
- Inadequate opportunities for youth: significant structural barriers for young women rooted in socio-cultural norms; 32.9% of young people between 15-24 were unemployed (global average is 23.5%), for young women it estimated at around 47.7% - almost three times the global average
- For the first time in history, more people live in urban than rural areas, a trend that is expected to continue over the coming years



TRENDS AND PATTERNS

- The triple threat of climate change, conflict, and health emergencies - affecting the most vulnerable people with devastating consequences, including lack of access to basic health care
- Developing countries have been hardest hit by the COVID 19 pandemic; facing an unprecedented health and economic crisis, that may reverse decades of development progress and jeopardise efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda
- Lack of data and information, which is imperative for developing successful policies and targeted interventions
- Hence the urgent need to review and reconsider the legislation and policies related to population and development, the ongoing review will help us to just that



WAY FORWARD

These challenges are interrelated and require an integrated approach centered around people. This means taking advantage of the synergies and interlinkages between the ICDP, its regional reviews and the 2030 Agenda - focusing on the nexus between population and sustainable development, because we know that population dynamics affect the prospects of sustainable development



WAY FORWARD

Indonesia Declaration of Commitment - Arab-Asian Parliamentarians

Ensure stronger political commitment to further implement the ICPD Program of Action and use [their] role as parliamentarians to hold governments accountable to the commitments made in Cairo in 1994, the ICPD25 and Nairobi Summit to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Ensure timely availability of population, reproductive health, gender and other developmental data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics, in order to facilitate knowledge sharing and used to improve public accountability and ensure that no one is put at risk and no one is left behind



THANK YOU

