

IPCI EXPLAINED

What is ICPD?

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) articulated a bold new vision about the relationships between population, development and individual well-being. At the ICPD, 179 countries adopted a forward-looking, 20-year Programme of Action that built on the success of the population, maternal health and family planning programmes of the previous decades while addressing, with a new perspective, the need of the early years of the twenty-first century.

The ICPD Programme of Action, sometimes referred to as the Cairo Consensus, was remarkable in its recognition that reproductive health and rights, as well as women's empowerment and gender equality, are cornerstones of population and development programmes. The Consensus is rooted in principles of human rights and respect for national sovereignty and various religious and cultural backgrounds.

What is IPCI?

IPCI stands for the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It was held for the first time in 2002 in Ottawa, Canada to provide parliamentarians with a global platform for reviewing progress made by the law makers in implementing the Cairo mandate. Subsequent IPCI conferences were held in 2004 in Strasbourg, 2006 in Bangkok, 2009 in Addis Ababa and 2012 in Istanbul.

What are the Regional Parliamentary Groups on Population and Development?

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has been working closely with five regional parliamentary groups on population and development to advocate and support the implementation of the ICPD mandate. These regional groups include: the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FAP), the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), and the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG).

What is the Focus of the Stockholm IPCI/ICPD Conference?

The Sixth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD), being held in Stockholm, Sweden on 23-25 April 2014, marks the 20th anniversary of the ICPD and the end of the original Cairo mandate. The Swedish all-party SRHR group initiated the conference being held in Stockholm, and the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament is the official host. During the Stockholm 2014 IPCI, parliamentarians will have a chance to follow up on the commitments made during the previous IPCI conferences, and produce a forward-looking and action-oriented declaration and action plan that will build upon previous Commitments.

The Conference would provide the parliamentarians with an opportunity to contribute to the United Nations Secretary-General's index report on further implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014, to be discussed at the UN General Assembly Special Session on the ICPD in September, 2014.

What does UNFPA do?

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person's potential is fulfilled.

What is ICPD Beyond 2014?

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review is an opportunity to influence the future of global population and development policy at national, regional and global levels. The Review provides a once in a generation chance to define what needs to be done to deliver a more equal, more sustainable world for the 7 billion people - and more - who share it.

The Review also identifies progress and achievements towards the goals set out in the ICPD. Evidence of what has worked and where challenges remain is collected from governments, civil society organizations and partners using the ICPD Global Survey, civil society consultations and a series of thematic conferences.

The Beyond 2014 Review process engages world leaders from governments and civil society and create a renewed consensus and global commitment to create a more equal and more sustainable world.

What is the vision of the post 2015 development agenda and how does the ICPD Programme of Action relate to it?

Whatever the post 2015 scenarios are likely to be, the vision of the post 2015 development agenda rests on the core values of human rights, equality and sustainability. These are the foundations of the ICPD Programme of Action and the renewed pillars of the ICPD Beyond 2014.

The ICPD beyond 2014 findings and recommendations represent a most relevant contribution to the post 2015 development framework, which should fully integrate reproductive health and rights issues, gender equality and population and development interactions. Since sustainability, equality and inclusion are central dimensions to the post 2015 development agenda, population dynamics, in all its dimensions (growth, age structure, distribution, migration, urbanization), will continue to constitute a very rich and influential determinant for all development outcomes during the coming decades, especially as they relate to achieving sustainability, reducing inequalities and fostering social inclusion.

What is the ICPD Global Review Report?

This is a United Nations report, produced at the request of the General Assembly by the ICPD+20 Secretariat, which is housed in UNFPA. The report, which reflects the recorded views of 176 countries, was submitted to United Nations Member States in February 2014 to inform their deliberations on the operational review on the ICPD Programme of Action.

The report provides strong evidence that the ICPD Programme of Action has made a significant contribution to development. It shows that many governments have made enormous progress in giving individuals the power and the means to decide freely and responsibly whether, when and how often to have children. Nevertheless, the report also shows that progress has been unequal and fragmented, and that new gaps, challenges, realities and opportunities have emerged.

You can access the report online at <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/>

KEY FINDINGS OF THE ICPD GLOBAL REVIEW

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

- The gains in maternal health and other dimensions of sexual and reproductive health and rights during the past 20 years are among the great successes to celebrate since the ICPD. They reflect advances in many distinct goals of the Programme of Action – for example, in technical advances during childbirth, access to contraception to avert unwanted pregnancies, and other gains in women’s empowerment
- Pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among 15-19 year olds in low- and middle-income countries.
- Adolescent birth rates are highest in poor countries, and in all countries they are clustered among the poorest and least educated.
- New cases of sexually transmitted infections appear to have increased significantly since 1994, driven in part by population growth among young people in areas of high incidence, including the Americas and sub-Saharan Africa.

Family planning

- Globally, contraceptive prevalence for women ages 15 to 49 who are married or in union and currently using any method of contraception, rose from 58.4 per cent in 1994 to 63.6 per cent in 2012.
- However, 90 per cent of women with unmet need today live in developing countries.
- Encouragingly, when fertility rates are held constant over time, increased use of effective modern contraception corresponds to a reduction in the rate of abortions.
- 222 million women still have an unmet need for contraceptives. 90 per cent of those are in the developing world.

Abortion

- The rate of abortions declined globally from 35 abortions per 1,000 women (age 15-44 years) in 1995, to 28 in 2003, but remained stable at 29 per 1,000 in 2008.
- The highest sub-regional abortion rates are in Eastern Europe (43), the Caribbean (39), East Africa (38) and Southeast Asia (36); the lowest sub-regional rate is in Western Europe (12).
- Absolute numbers of estimated abortions declined from 45.6 million in 1995 to 41.6 million in 2003 and increased to 43.8 million in 2008, 22 million of which were unsafe.
- Unsafe abortion accounts for roughly 13 per cent of maternal deaths, and 160 deaths per 100,000 unsafe abortions respectively.

Adolescents & Youth

- There are 1.8 billion young people in the world today, about half survive on less than \$2 a day, while more than 100 million adolescents do not attend school
- About 16 million girls aged 15-19 give birth each year. In nine out of ten of these cases, the girl is already married.
- Demographic changes in the past decades have led to the largest generation of young people (aged 10-24 years) in the world today. With declining fertility rates these cohorts can – if provided with learning and work opportunities – jumpstart development.
- As of 2010, 158 countries have a legal age of marriage of 18 years. Nevertheless, for the period 2000-2011, an estimated 34 per cent of women aged 20-24 in developing regions had been married or in union before age 18.

Maternal mortality

- Of all sexual and reproductive health indicators, the greatest gains since 1994 have been made in reducing maternal deaths. By 2010, the maternal mortality ratio had declined by 47 per cent from 400 to 210 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (from 1994).
- Every day, approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. 99 per cent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries.
- The proportion of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel rose in developing countries from 56 per cent in 1990 to 67 per cent in 2011.
- Women in developed countries have only a one in 3,800 lifetime risk of dying of maternal causes, compared to one in 150 in developing countries, and one in 39 in sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV and STIs

- Globally, new HIV infections have declined by 33 per cent from 3.4 million in 2001 to 2.3 million in 2012.
- In 26 low- and middle-income countries new HIV infections decreased more than 50 per cent between 2001 and 2012. Yet, new infections have risen in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in recent years, despite declines in Ukraine. New infections continue to rise in the Middle-East and North Africa and rates of decline have slowed in Southern Africa.
- While deaths due to AIDS have declined sharply to an estimated 1.6 million in 2012, AIDS remains the leading cause of death in women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) worldwide.
- The percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who have access to ART rose dramatically, reaching 63 per cent globally in 2012.

Poverty

- Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people living in extreme poverty fell by half as a share of the total population in developing countries (from 47 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010), a reduction of almost one billion people.
- 93 per cent of governments responding to the recent ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey indicate that they are addressing “the eradication of poverty, with special attention to income generation and employment strategies.”
- The current distribution of wealth presents a serious threat to further economic growth, inclusiveness and both social and environmental sustainability. Approximately 69 per cent of all adults are found in the lowest wealth category with only three per cent of global wealth.
- Income inequality within and among many countries has been rising. More than half of the absolute gains in global income over the period 1988-2008 went to the richest 5 per cent. None went to the bottom 10 per cent.

Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality

- Despite progress made since 1994, the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality remain unfulfilled and discrimination against women is evident in all societies.
- Women continue to be paid less than men for equal work; over-represented in vulnerable and informal employment; and under-represented in positions of power and decision-making.
- 90 per cent of countries reporting in the Global Survey state that they have a law in place with an enforcement provision for paid maternity leave (of any length). Yet, only 54 per cent have such an instrument in place for paid paternity leave, constituting a major barrier to men’s participation in parenting.
- Fewer than two-thirds of countries (64 per cent) reporting to the Global Survey have addressed the issue of “facilitating compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities”, making it easier for women to combine child-rearing with participation in the workforce.

Older Persons

- Older persons are the world's fastest growing population group, a consequence of demographic changes resulting from fertility decline and increased longevity.
- Over the past two decades, the number and proportion of older persons aged 60 years or over rose in all countries, with the increase in the population of older persons in developing countries more than twice (72 per cent) that of developed countries (33 per cent).
- It is projected that more than 20 per cent of the global population will be age 60 and above by 2050; the number of older persons is projected to surpass the number of children by 2047.
- Globally, the highest proportion of older persons' labour force participation is in Africa, where more than 40 per cent of those over 65 years of age are economically active, followed by nearly 25 per cent in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.