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A Newsletter of the UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation

JUNE 1996

ECO CONFERENCES FOLLOW UP ICPD RECOMMENDATIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Almaty and Islamabad were the sites of two recent conferences highlighting the special needs of the Central Asian Republics, Azerbaijan and other members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Government of Pakistan hosted the conference "Access to and Quality of Reproductive Health/Family Planning Services: Expanding Contraceptive Choices," in Islamabad, 13-15 April 1996. The Government of Kazakstan hosted the conference "The Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the ECO Region," in Almaty, 18-20 April 1996.

The back-to-back meetings were jointly organized by UNFPA and ECO. Established in 1985 in Tehran, ECO is composed of 10 member States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In October 1994, UNFPA and ECO had agreed to promote exchanges within the ECO region concerning population-related matters and, especially, to promote ICPD recommendations.

Participants at the two conferences identified and adopted strategies to implement and monitor progress towards meeting ICPD goals, renewing their commitment, especially in the field of reproductive health (RH). National capacity-building and human resources development were important concerns. The conferences included discussion of the importance of involving men in reproductive health, empowering women, safeguarding the health of women and children and recognizing the special sexual health needs of adolescents.

Addressing the Islamabad meeting's closing session, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, noted that the expansion of contraceptive choices and related training of service providers have made a significant impact on reducing the incidence of abortion in countries of Central Asia. At the same session, Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, the Prime Minister of Pakistan's Special Assistant for the Social Sector, stressed that, because resources are limited, programmes need to be more cost-effective; NGOs, especially the more established ones, should try their best to self-finance RH/family planning (FP) schemes.

The President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbaev, in his welcoming address to the Almaty conference, underscored its importance and relevance in the context of the Government's programme for improving the health of women and children. In her presentation, Dr. Sadik noted the progress made by many Governments, international agencies and NGOs in broadening family planning programmes and adopting the reproductive health approach. Forging partnerships among Governments, NGOs and the private sector was a major theme at the inaugural session of the Almaty conference, which, according to Ambassador Shamshad Ahmad, Secretary-General of ECO, provided ECO member countries with a golden opportunity collectively to review national capacities to meet the ICPD Programme of

Action goals.

UNFPA plans to publish the reports of the two conferences and is exploring with ECO the possibility of holding a regional conference on male involvement in RH/FP.

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PROVIDING BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ALL

Nine global conferences have been held over the past six years _ all directly bearing on social issues. Each of these conferences _ the World Summit for Children, the World Conference on Education for All, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and, in June 1996, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) _ focused on a particular substantive issue. Yet, they all amplified a common message, namely, that development efforts must be people-centred if they are to be successful.

Underlying all these conferences is a consensus that securing human rights and meeting individuals' basic needs constitute critical first steps in addressing global problems. Development programmes must expand people's access to basic social services and sustainable livelihoods and take into consideration the balance between people, resources and the environment, reconciling the needs of the present with those of future generations.

The ICPD Programme of Action emphasizes the interconnectedness of

initiatives in population and those in education, health, environment and poverty reduction. It affirms that meeting the needs of individuals, empowering women, promoting gender equality and equity and involving all parts of civil society are the surest ways of bringing about people-centred development. Concentrating on these aims, successful population programmes are the building blocks for a secure and sustainable future.

The United Nations system is committed to working with countries to promote access to basic social services. I am pleased that the April meeting in Oslo on the 20/20 Initiative endorsed investments in the social sector. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of investing in a country's human resources and promoting access for all to basic social services.

As part of a unified follow-up to its global conferences, the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination established three task forces - one on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, another on the Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development and another on Basic Social Services for All. The mandate of the Basic Social Services Task Force, of which I am privileged to serve as the Chair, includes: population, with special emphasis on reproductive health and family planning services; basic education; primary health care; drinking water and sanitation; shelter; and social services in post-crisis situations. The Task Force, which will concentrate on two sectors - basic education and primary health care - will issue guidelines on these topics for the Resident Coordinator System. As Chair, I shall make every effort to ensure that information about the work of the Task Force is widely disseminated and its outputs made available to all interested parties.

Nafis Sadik

Executive Director

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA PURSUES ICPD GOALS

Key parts of the ICPD Programme of Action are being promoted in the United Republic of Tanzania, where both governmental and non-governmental sectors are working to meet the nation's population and development challenges by implementing the National Population Policy, adopted in 1992.

Parliamentarians have been especially active in helping to ensure that the ideals espoused in Cairo are translated into action both in the country and in the East Africa region. In March 1996, female Members of Parliament (MPs) hosted MPs from Uganda in an effort to form an "East African Network" to jointly promote improvements in women's and girls' status.

The implications of the ICPD Programme of Action for the country itself were explored at a parliamentarians' seminar on Population and Development in February 1995. Seminar participants _ government ministers as well as MPs -- used the Programme of Action as a framework for spotlighting the nation's most pressing population concerns, among them rural-urban population movements; poverty alleviation in rural areas; women's empowerment; and youth, health and development. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Planning Commission, the Speaker's Office and UNFPA.

Recently, the Government launched efforts to revamp its population information, education and communication (IEC) activities to facilitate

the implementation of the National Population Policy. It hosted a national IEC development workshop, 5-16 February 1996. Following an examination of existing IEC activities, workshop participants developed strategies to operationalize the implementation of the National Population Policy, eliminate duplication of work between various sectors and introduce grass-roots IEC activities.

As part of "South-South" cooperation, four senior government officials, one NGO programme director and the UNFPA National Programme Officer visited Indonesia in 1995 on a study tour of that country's successful national family planning programme. Under the Partnership Exchange Programme in Family Planning, a number of missions composed of senior and mid-level health professionals, planners, economists, statisticians and others have visited Indonesia, working with their Indonesian counterparts to address key concerns in the Tanzanian programme, such as the insufficient number of volunteers; the limited participation of community leaders; the lack of culturally sensitive IEC materials; and the need to strengthen the community-level management information system and the community-based distribution programmes. The various missions exemplified the kind of technical cooperation among developing countries advocated by the ICPD Programme of Action.

Responding to the ICPD's call to improve reproductive health services for young people, a non-governmental organization (NGO) called EMAU (Elimu ya Malezi ya Ujana _ Responsible Parenthood Education for Youth Project) launched a youth guidance and counselling programme in February 1995. EMAU offers group and individual counselling on reproductive health, responsible parenthood and related issues. Building on EMAU's pilot activities, a project is now being developed to establish a youth centre in Dar es Salaam. The centre will offer a range of services, including family

planning counselling and service provision, sexually transmitted disease counselling, educational and recreational programmes, outreach efforts by peer educators and education for parents. The project will entail close collaboration between EMAU and the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), which operates a similar youth centre in Dar es Salaam.

Gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women _ core concepts of the ICPD Programme of Action _ are being promoted through a project implemented by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Dar es Salaam and assisted by UNFPA. This project, launched in October 1995, is designed to build up the capacity of the Women's Studies Group of the IDS and to incorporate a women in development (WID)/gender course into the IDS curriculum. For sensitizing key personnel in the population and health field on gender issues, the project is preparing a training manual on WID and gender concerns.

_ From J. Bill Musoke
UNFPA Representative
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ICPD Feature:

FAMILY CARE INTERNATIONAL: REINFORCING CAIRO'S MESSAGES

Women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a pivotal role in recent UN global conferences. Beginning with the United Nations Conference on Environment (UNCED), during the entire International

Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) process and at the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), women's groups highlighted key issues and worked to ensure that the Conferences' recommendations addressed these concerns. ICPD News is featuring articles on the vital role of such organizations. The following article profiles Family Care International:

Family Care International (FCI), a non-profit organization committed to improving women's sexual and reproductive health and rights in developing countries, is helping country partners implement the ICPD Programme of Action as well as the reproductive health recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW). "The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) spotlighted the fact that women and girls suffer _ and sometimes die _ because of poor reproductive and sexual health," declares FCI President Jill Sheffield. "Their fate demonstrates why reproductive health issues must be addressed immediately and comprehensively."

FCI, which is based in New York, has always pursued a comprehensive approach to reproductive health. FCI helped organize the first Safe Motherhood Conference in Nairobi in 1987 and has since served as the secretariat for the Safe Motherhood Initiative. Ann Starrs, senior program associate, states that "since Cairo, awareness of reproductive health has grown significantly. It is now much easier to deal with reproductive health directly on its own terms, rather than using Safe Motherhood as an entry point."

FCI is collaborating with local organizations in Benin, Bolivia, Eritrea, Ghana and Mexico, among others, on a range of efforts that include policy reform, research on quality of care, and training to improve the

interpersonal and clinical skills of health workers.

Currently, FCI is encouraging selected countries to form local task forces composed of representatives from governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In Mexico, where such a task force has been established, FCI found that ministries, women's organizations and NGOs were initially reluctant "to come to the same table" to discuss reproductive health issues. Today, however, the task force is addressing a variety of issues and is reviewing legislation and services to improve women's reproductive health.

According to Ellen Themmen, FCI programme associate, the task forces are a way of engaging the local community and generating a consensus on what should be done. The task forces will conduct situation analyses as a basis for designing integrated reproductive and sexual health programmes that address their countries' particular needs.

FCI PUBLICATION ADDRESSES REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH THEMES

To educate and support policy makers, programme planners and others concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, Family Care International (FCI) has published *Commitments to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All: Framework for Action*. The publication translates the commitments emerging from the ICPD, FWCW and other UN conferences into a clear framework for policy-making, legislation, research, service provision, training and health education.

Commitments is available in English, French and Spanish. For single copies contact: FCI, 588 Broadway, Suite 503, New York, NY 10012, USA.

Telephone: 212 941-5300, Fax: 212-941-5563. (Additional copies are \$2 for Europe, North America and international organizations; \$1 for developing countries.)

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NEWS BRIEFS

PRSD PREPARATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN. Representatives of Governments, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the UN met in Jamaica from 29 February to 1 March to prepare for a Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise in the English-speaking Caribbean, as the basis for a UNFPA programme in the subregion for 1997-2000. The new programme would take into account priorities and directions of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Meeting participants reported on numerous innovations in the subregion reflecting ICPD goals, including the involvement of men in reproductive health, adolescent programmes, national legislation on women's rights and collaboration between Governments and NGOs.

NGO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS. The NGO Advisory Committee held its second annual meeting at UNFPA headquarters in New York on 16-17 May 1996 to discuss collaboration of Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the implementation and monitoring of the ICPD Programme of Action and the matter of NGO sustainability. Thirty-one participants from national, regional and international NGOs throughout the world attended the meeting.

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON FGM. Following up on recommendations concerning Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the ICPD Programme of

Action and the Fourth World Conference on Women Platform for Action, a Technical Consultation on FGM took place in Addis Ababa, 27-29 March. Representatives from 25 countries where FGM is practised attended the meeting, along with representatives of non-governmental organizations and the UN. Participants sought to develop a practical programming framework for incorporating into reproductive health programmes efforts to eradicate FGM. Participants discussed the formulation of information and communication strategies concerning the urgency of eradicating FGM, the inclusion of this issue in all human rights education components of Family Life Education programmes, and the importance of legislation.

THREE ACC TASK FORCES. To galvanize the UN system around priority goals emerging from recent global conferences and to rationalize and strengthen the system's follow-up mechanisms for delivering coordinated assistance at country and regional levels, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) established three task forces. The Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, chaired by the International Labour Organisation, met on 25-26 January 1996 and agreed to conduct a number of country reviews analysing the situation of employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the impact of globalization and technological change. A report will be prepared summarizing lessons learned and suggesting ways to improve inter-agency collaboration. The Task Force on Basic Social Services For All (BSSA), chaired by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA, met on 23 February 1996 and agreed on a work programme that includes the preparation of: Guidelines for UN Resident Coordinators; indicators to measure progress in implementing recommendations of recent global conferences in the social sector; a wall-chart with indicators for social services; a Best Practices/Lessons Learned document; and a pocket-card on advocacy. The BSSA Task Force is an expansion of the earlier Inter-Agency Task Force on ICPD Implementation.

The Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development, chaired by the World Bank, met on 22 March 1996. The meeting agreed to produce a synthesis of best practices/lessons learned, aimed at clarifying the elements of an enabling environment for economic and social development; establishing mechanisms for improved inter-agency coordination in support of such an environment; and providing standardized inter-agency performance indicators of social and economic progress reflecting the outcomes of major conferences.

All three task forces will maintain linkages with one another and with other UN initiatives, as they work towards the overall goal of poverty eradication.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. On the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, 18 April-3 May 1996, was the report of the Secretary-General on demographic dynamics and sustainability (E/CN.17/1996/10 and Corr. 1 and Add. 1). UNFPA was the Task Manager for this report on Chapter 5 of Agenda 21. The Commission noted with satisfaction that greater importance is being attached to population questions and to the need to integrate population factors into environment and development planning, identifying population as one of the driving forces in the sustainable management of natural resources. In addition to reaffirming its 1995 decisions, the Commission called for research studies on gender-sensitive analysis and linkages among population, poverty, consumption and production, environment and natural resources, education and health. The Commission urged the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in development policies and programmes.

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. A special session of the Commission on Social Development, which has primary responsibility for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, took place at the UN, 21-31 May 1996. The special session discussed the functioning of the Commission and explored strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty. Participating in the panel discussion "Meeting Basic Human Needs for All," Ms. Kerstin Trone, Deputy Executive Director (Programme), UNFPA, underscored that key elements in meeting basic human needs included the following: addressing the needs of marginalized/vulnerable groups; women's empowerment; reproductive health services and reproductive rights; collaboration among Governments, international development partners, NGOs, the private sector and civil society; and advocacy. The Commission also organized a panel discussion with representatives of Inter-Agency Task Forces on the follow-up to international conferences.

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PHILIPPINES RESPONDS TO THE ICPD

The Government of the Philippines is systematically promoting the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the field of reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP). Two recent roundtable discussions _ the first, on 29 February 1996, for programme managers of the Department of Health, and the second, on 18 March 1996, for the main government agencies involved in FP/RH _ led to agreement on several basic concepts:

* Adoption of the ICPD definition of reproductive health;

* Determination of areas for improving and coordinating the delivery of health services responsive to an RH approach to FP; and

* Identification and prioritization of nine key elements of RH, viz., family planning (fertility regulation), obstetric care, prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility and sexual health disorders, prevention of abortion, prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections (RTIs), breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive system, counselling and education on sexuality, prevention of violence against women, and nutrition.

The national FP/RH Programme, which consists of three major components or "tracks," is now making significant progress in operationalizing the ICPD Programme of Action.

* Under the Department of Health Track, efforts are under way to develop RH indicators for monitoring and evaluation, since the existing system is basically FP-oriented;

* Under the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Track, two women's NGOs are moving towards providing the full range of RH services using gender-sensitive approaches. Linangan ng Kababaihan (LIKHAAN) and the Women's Health Care Foundation (WHCF) are operating UNFPA-assisted clinics that serve as models for RH service delivery;

* Another NGO, Population Services Pilipinas Inc. (PSPI), has established a male reproductive health centre and is experimenting with approaches to attract and involve men in RH; and

* Under the Local Government Units (LGUs) Track, a baseline survey for

the 18 provinces to be covered has already incorporated selected RH indicators.

A national workshop to identify key RH messages was held on 28-29 March 1996. After being further refined, the IEC messages generated by the workshop will serve as the basis for producing new and dynamic IEC materials on RH.

Adolescent fertility and youth development are receiving focused attention as a result of the ICPD Programme of Action. Both government and non-government agencies are now using the results of a national survey on sexuality-related knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescents for advocacy and awareness-creation as well as for the development of programmes and projects for youth. Key survey findings were used, inter alia, as the basis for revision of the population education programme curriculum at all levels, from pre-school to the tertiary level, including non-formal education and teacher training.

During the Board of Commissioners' Meeting of the Commission on Population (POPCOM), held on 22 February 1996, 10 secretaries of major government departments pledged their departments to the integration of population concerns into their respective programmes.

The Government's commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action was underscored by an Executive Order signed on 28 February 1996 by President Fidel V. Ramos. The Executive Order, inter alia, requires local government officials to promote the Philippine Family Planning Program (PFPP) as a priority programme through advocacy activities and vigorous and sustained participation in programme management.

UNFPA Representative

Philippines

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ICPD NEWS

ICPD News, a quarterly newsletter of the UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation, is designed to keep the international community, government representatives, donors, non-governmental organizations and others informed about follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994.

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