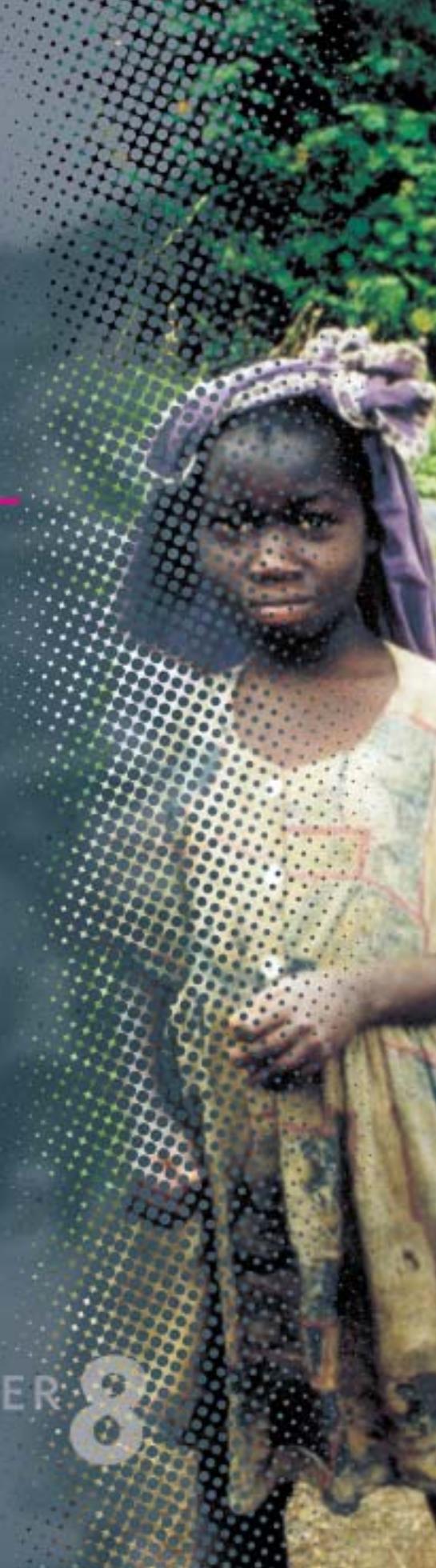


POPULATION AND POVERTY

ACHIEVING EQUITY, EQUALITY AND
SUSTAINABILITY

POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIES

NUMBER 8





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FOREWORD

The Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) articulated a vision of population issues being central to poverty reduction and to improving the quality of life of the world's people. The ICPD set a number of interdependent quantitative and qualitative goals and targets to be attained over a 20-year time period. These include universal access to comprehensive reproductive health information and services, including family planning and sexual health; reductions in infant, child and maternal mortality, and universal access to primary education, with special attention to closing the gender gap.

The ICPD goals and objectives map closely to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), arising from the 2000 Millennium Declaration agreed to by 189 nations in September. Achieving the MDGs is critically dependent, *inter alia*, on making progress towards the ICPD goal of achieving universal access to reproductive health information and services. Increased access to quality reproductive health services contributes to reduced child and maternal mortality, helps combat HIV/AIDS, and promotes gender equality. Providing reproductive choices is also essential for reducing income and consumption poverty, supporting the achievement of universal primary education and for the promotion of sustainable development.

UNFPA organised a Consultation in Princeton, New Jersey, between 30 September and 2 October 2002, on the linkages between population, reproductive health, gender and poverty. The main purpose was to further a dialogue, outlined in the *State of the World Population 2002*, for

defining a conceptual framework for UNFPA linking population, reproductive health and gender with poverty reduction in a rights-based framework. It is, of course, recognised that many of the pathways, and the strength of causality, between population, reproductive health and poverty continue to be researched. As more models are developed, and more data become available, this discussion will be further enriched.

The importance of population dynamics and structure, reproductive health (including adolescent reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention), and empowerment of women and gender equality and equity for poverty reduction is fundamental. The many feedbacks from pro-poor targeting in population, reproductive health, and gender, linked to other human development inputs, both reduce poverty in the short-term and play a vital role, especially for young women and their families, in enhancing the ability to escape or avoid poverty over the life-course.

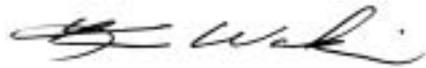
UNFPA has many key roles to play in helping to achieve poverty reduction, as well as improving access by the poor to information and services. With a conceptual framework linking population, reproductive health, gender and poverty reduction, coupled with related operational tools, the key roles and interests of UNFPA can be better reflected in country-level programming processes, such as Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), MDG country-level reports (MDGRs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and Sector Wide Approaches (SWAps). Much can be achieved through policy dialogue and advocacy. This in turn requires a strong evidence base and alliance building with governments, other UN partners, Bretton Woods Institutions, donors, civil society and, not least, the full range of national stakeholders.

As part of that Consultation a number of papers were presented and discussed, by experts from within and outside of UNFPA, on different dimensions of this theme, including the regional diversity in population and poverty interactions. This publication is based on an edited selection of the presentations made at the Consultation.

On behalf of UNFPA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants who attended the Princeton Consultation, as well as those who contributed comments on the papers presented and arising out of it. Finally, I would especially like to thank those who prepared papers

and contributed to this report (Page vi) for their hard work. I have every confidence that this set of papers makes a solid contribution to the ongoing dialogue taking place on population and poverty at global, regional and country levels.

Kunio Waki



Deputy Executive Director (Programmes)
June 2003

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