



Ministry of Finance and Economic Development



World Population Day

Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services

Building the Momentum to Meet the unmet need for
Family Planning
Proceedings of the Advocacy Workshop
July 2012



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Executive Summary

1.1. Advocacy Workshop held at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa

An advocacy workshop was held on July 4, 2012 in Addis Ababa to mark World Population Day that was celebrated with an international theme of “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”.

In his welcoming note at the half-a-day celebration held at the Awash Hall of Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel, Mr. Ibrahim Sanbuli, UNFPA Deputy Representative and Moderator of First Session of the workshop, said the occasion was a day set aside to collect and reflect issues that impact overall development.

Mr. Ibrahim said the themes for discussions were selected to reflect what has been done, needs to be done and the way forward to meet the MDG by 2015. He pointed out that the focus for the advocacy workshop was also to deliberate on the unmet needs of family planning, climate change and population increase challenges in development, ,

Addressing the high-level advocacy workshop, Dr. Benoit Kalasa, UNFPA Representative, said that he was pleased to have this opportunity to welcome and meet all stakeholders and work with them for the development of Ethiopia, in view of the first event i.e. to mark 2012 World Population Day and in the wake of the 2nd event of London Summit on Family Planning.

Dr. Kalasa pointed out that each year attention is given to World Population Day celebration on the urgency and importance of population and reproductive health In the context of national and international developments and said “we have the opportunity to accelerate progress towards one fundamental goal: Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services, which is the theme of World Population Day 2012”.

He said the theme for this year was particularly chosen to recognise the many actors in the area who provide information and words on the reproductive health and rights, services and supplies to reflect achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held earlier (Rio+ 20) and the part of the future that we want to see”.

Dr. Kalasa said despite the efforts made, reproductive health problem remains to be a potential challenge for many and stressed that “a lot needs to be done by intellectuals and stakeholders who gather together today to solve reproductive and family planning problems, celebrate the achievements so far and contribute for the future course of action”.

In her keynote speech, on behalf of the State Minister of Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), W/o Genet Mengistu, Director, Population Affairs Directorate, MoFED, said that she was pleased to address the advocacy workshop that was organised to mark World Population Day, the up-coming London Summit on Family Planning and commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the official launching of the Ethiopian Population Policy.

W/o Genet explained the launching of the National Population Policy in 1993 and the Ethiopian government support to family planning and reproductive health service and shared what the government has handled and wants to do in the future.

In his opening remark H.E Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, State Minister of Health, enumerated areas of focus undertaken by the Ethiopian government to achieve the universal MDGs.

Dr. Kesetebirhan said innovative government programmes, including Health Extension Programme, has brought significant improvement in the provision of modern family planning services in the country. He said despite the achievements made so far “we are

faced with more challenges and we should be ready to exert more effort to provide better services”.

He pointed out that there is conducive policy environment and the road map to address reproductive health and family planning issues, and wished participants fruitful deliberations and declared the workshop is officially opened.

Mr. Ibrahim thanked all presenters and said “each one of us has one thing to offer unleashing the potential to meet what we are looking for”. Then he opened the floor for comments questions or suggestions.

1.2. Federal and Regional Consultative Meeting on Population and Development

Senior federal and regional population office experts met on July 05, 2012 at the Safari Hall of Ghion Hotel. The 9th federal and regional consultative meeting, also a side event of the World Population Day Celebration (WPD), was held to discuss activities undertaken by Federal Population Affairs Directorate and Regional Population Offices, achievements so far, challenges encountered by the offices due to lack of finances at the regional level, and the way forward on how best to include and integrate regional concerns in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) planning process.

Some 25 participants from regional population affairs offices of Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Tigray, Somali, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State as well as MoFED participated in the consultative meeting that was held as part of the World Population Day celebration advocacy initiatives. Afar, Gambella, Oromia and Harari Regional States could not make it to the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Post graduate students from Gondar University have also attended the consultative meeting showing that population issue is integrated in the education sector programme, and also ensuring that building the capacity of university

students and involving the younger generation in FP/RH programmes as part of the development process.

Addressing the consultative meeting, W/o Genet Mengistu, Director of the Populations Affaires Directorate of MoFED, said the consultative meeting would enable to share strengths and weaknesses encountered by each region and to improve future performance and bring about national impact in promoting population issues as a government development agenda. W/o Genet pointed out that this year's WPD would be celebrated with different events/occasions one of them being the bicycle tournament that will be held in Dire Dawa to involve the youth in FP/RH programmes.

Following W/o Genet's opening remark regional representatives presented their activity report for the fiscal year 2011. Accordingly, Ato Ayanaw Assaye (Amhara), Ato Zeru Yibrah (Addis Ababa), Ato Demsis Gebre (SNNPRS) made presentations until the coffee break at 11:20a.m. Following the Coffee Break Ato Mohammed (Somali), Ato Mulugeta Mesfin (Tigray), Ato Tadesse Birhanu (Benishangul Gumuz), Ato Hailu Teklu (Dire Dawa) and Ato Fikre Gesso (MoFED) presented activity report of their respective regions as well as MoFED for the fiscal year 2011.

Following the presentations, W/o Genet said a lot has been accomplished despite some challenges faced in the implementation of plans as well as discontinuation of budgetary support from UNFPA for nearly six months. She said it was commendable that regions have mobilised and utilised resources from NGOs and regional government budget line to accomplish their planned activities for the fiscal year 2011.

Having said this W/o Genet invited participants if they have comments, questions or suggestions on:

2.1 Profile of activities undertaken

2.2 What should regional government's role be in securing additional resources to implement population programmes and what should federal government's financial and technical support be to improve planning and implementation of population issues

2.3 Areas of intervention by the federal government to improve implementation of population affairs on:

- how best regions can integrate their plans with MoFED
- what they expect from the federal government in implementing their plans
- What should be region-to-region and region-federal government relations in integrating population issues in development programmes

W/o Genet wrapped-up the morning session by reminding regional participants to promote their advocacy efforts and commitment to get technical and capacity building opportunities to promote population issues.

She also suggested using every possible means and approach to win the hearts of donors and to mobilise and secure resources to reach people and solve their unmet needs.

The afternoon session was presentation and brief overview of the "Red Book" that dealt with Demographic Transition and Development in Africa.

Dr. Charles Teller and Dr. Aseffa Haile Mariam made a brief overview of the book which they said was "oriented by theory, concepts and contentions that was a result of 20 years of research based on data and analysis of demographic information to help address population issues in the Ethiopian context and also in relation to other African countries".

The authors said the book is a key guiding light to do relevant population policy-oriented research. They said the book could strengthen the knowledge base in the process of policy formulation and could greatly contribute to evaluate impact of the effort made by relevant policy issues to recognize and meet MDG targets.

In spite of the difficulties like food security, population related targets especially maternal mortality rate and high fertility rates, land holding system, environmental degradation, population pressure, migration, gender disparity in resource allocation, unmet youth aspiration and motivation, they said that Ethiopia has also shown some positive trends like improvement in age at first marriage of girls, improvement in education as a result of the enrolment of more women and girls as well as improvements in health services which have accelerated the demographic transition and contributed to the effort that is being made to meet the MDG in 2015. “This blending of positive and negative factors in the demographic transition is what makes Ethiopia unique” they said.

Dr. Charles Teller and Dr. Aseffa Haile mariam started their presentation with questions that need to be answered to effectively promote population issues as a government agenda, and focused the discussion on the “red book” in relation to regional perspectives to accelerate demographic transition and stay on track in spite of:

- Absence of harmonisation of data
- Inadequate data where quality is lacked
- Absence of systematic M&E system to assess, monitor and evaluate demographic factors and to contribute to population issues as part of the development programme

1.3. The Bicycle Tournament held in Dire Dawa

The three-course Bicycle Racing was held in Dire Dawa on July 8, 2012 to mark the the 19th anniversary of the launching of the National Population Policy and the 2012 World Population Day (WPD). The day was colourfully marked by posters and banners that were displayed at the main spots of the city of Dire Dawa with the national and international themes of “Small Happy and Prosperous Family” and “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services” respectively.

The bicycle race which took place at the Sabian sub-city of Dire Dawa, as one of the side events held to celebrate WPD, mainly focused on involving the youth for successful implementation of FP/RH programmes. Circus Dire Dawa, sub-branch of Circus Ethiopia, made great contribution and added up colour to celebration WPD. Various messages regarding FP/RH were transmitted to the audience by Shimelis Tilahun, Getu Tegegn and Mihret Zelalem, young members of Circus Dire Dawa. Shimelis said the racing event would enable to create conducive environment to encourage competitive spirit among the youth in every aspect including FP/RH. Circus Ethiopia also presented various pieces of Ethiopian and African music. Acrobats, hat juggling and double stick were also among the shows presented to “raise the awareness of the public using the art as a weapon of change”.

Facts and figures as well as IEC materials were also distributed to the audience as part of the awareness raising effort to “transfer fundamental information to the public in general and the youth in particular” regarding FP/RH and population issues.

The City Administration traffic police which mostly comprised young volunteers also contributed a lot for the peaceful conduction of the event that started at 9:30a.m. The celebration of the day was organised by the Dire Dawa Population Office and Dire Dawa Bicycle Federation in collaboration with MoFED, and other partners including UNFPA,

The race was started at 9:30a.m and lasted until 12:40p.m.The audience, which mostly comprised young boys and girls, children and to some extent women and the elderly, has shown great discipline during the race. The Dire Dawa Mass Media, Ethiopian News Agency and MoFED Communications Directorate gave a wider coverage of the WPD celebration held in the city.

Present on the occasion were government officials from various government offices and departments.

1.4. The Panel Discussion held on the Ethiopian Television (ETV)

A panel discussion was held on the Ethiopian Television to mark World Population Day (WPD) that was celebrated with the theme “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”.

As a programme prelude It was pointed out that almost 1/3 of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and who comprise about 60% of the total population do not know how and where to get RH services.

The panel discussion, organised as one of the side-events to mark WPD, mainly focused on key intervention areas that would contribute for increased access to RH services in Ethiopia. The challenges, achievements so far registered and future course of action in the Ethiopian and global context to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were also discussed in detail.

The panellists were professionals drawn from Ministry of Health, Population Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations and the UNFPA with long term experience on reproductive Health services and programmes in Ethiopia.

About 15 participants from government offices and Non-governmental organisations attended the panel discussion that was organised by the Ethiopian Radio and Television Enterprise and United Nations Fund for Population Affairs (UNFPA).

Chapter One: The Meeting at the Hilton Hotel

1.1. Summary of Speeches

An advocacy workshop was held on July 4, 2012 in Addis Ababa to mark World Population Day that was celebrated with an international theme of “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”.

In his welcoming note at the half-a-day celebration held at the Awash Hall of Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel, Mr. Ibrahim Sanbuli, UNFPA Deputy Representative and Moderator of First Session of the workshop, said the occasion was a day set aside to collect and reflect issues that impact overall development.

Mr. Ibrahim said the themes for discussions were selected to reflect what has been done, needs to be done and the way forward. The focus for the advocacy workshop was also to deliberate on the unmet needs of family planning, challenges, climate change and population increase in development. How to manage the issues of family planning as a side issues and to discuss what is happening in terms of family planning as a development agenda in the Ethiopian context.

In his welcoming note at the high-level advocacy workshop, Dr. Benoit Kalasa, UNFPA Representative, said that he was pleased to have this opportunity to welcome and meet all stakeholders and work with them for the development of Ethiopia, in view of the first event *i.e.* to mark 2012 World Population Day and in the wake of the 2nd event of London Summit on Family Planning.

Dr. Kalasa pointed out that each year attention is given to World Population Day celebration on the urgency and importance of population and reproductive health In the context of national and international developments and said “we have the opportunity to accelerate progress towards one fundamental goal: Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services, which is the theme of World Population Day 2012”.

He said the theme for this year was particularly chosen to recognise the many actors in the area who provide information and words on the reproductive health and rights, services and supplies to reflect achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held earlier (Rio+ 20) and the part of the future that we want to see”.

Dr. Kalasa said the London Summit is an event that will strive to mobilise the political will and extra resources needed to meet the family planning need of 120 million more women and girls in 69 developing countries, including Ethiopia. It is also to renew commitments globally to meet their unmet needs by 2020, which, he said “had remained the cause of ill health and death for women of childbearing age world-wide... in the absence of knowledge, skills and services that they need to protect themselves”.

Addressing the commitment made by the Ethiopian government to promote FP and RH issues, Dr. Kalasa said the significant success achieved in the doubling of contraceptive prevalence rate of 29%, increase in the use of modern methods and decline to 25% and decline in total fertility rate of 4.8 children and other reproductive health issues is attributed to the conducive policy environment created by the Ethiopian government and the success thereof. He said further that the Government of Ethiopia is committed to enable parents to decide on the number of their children and targets to reach 66% of contraceptive prevalence rate by 2015, towards which much needs to be done

Dr. Kalasa said despite the efforts made, reproductive health problem remains to be a potential challenge for many and stressed that “a lot needs to be done by intellectuals and stakeholders who gather together to solve reproductive and family planning problems, celebrate the achievements so far and contribute for the future course of action”.

Addressing the workshop W/o Genet Mengistu, Director, Population Affaires Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) said that she was

pleased to address the advocacy workshop that was organised to mark World Population Day, the up-coming London Summit on Family Planning and commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the official launching of the Ethiopian Population Policy.

W/o Genet explained the global context as well as planning and manning side of Ethiopian government support to the issue of family planning and reproductive health service and shared what the government has handled and wants to do in the future.

She said “this year’s theme for the celebration “Universal Access to Reproductive Health services” was crucial to reflect the progress made in fulfilling commitments of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994 which also called for universal access by 2015 to reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV”.

W/o Genet said Ethiopia has made commendable effort in a bid to ensure universal access to reproductive health by creating conducive environment, amending relevant laws and investing heavily to improve access to, and quality of, the services throughout the country. The government health extension programme has enabled married women, especially in rural areas, to have improved access to reproductive health information and services and to make informed decision.

In recognition of the effects of the disparity between population growth and economic development, the government Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) has considered population and development as cross-cutting issue “creating conducive environment for the fast growing working age population to be productive and actively participate in the development of the country” she said.

Reiterating the remarkable progress made in recent years, she expressed the government’s strong belief that meeting the unmet need for family planning will substantially reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and hence, is committed to exert

all its efforts to increase the use of modern family planning method and expected strong collaboration than ever from all development partners. She also expressed hope that the forum not only will create an opportunity to discuss on various reproductive health related issues it will also produce valuable inputs for the London international summit on family planning as well.

Finally, she thanked all development partners and the UNFPA Country Office for their support and assistance and wished the participants a fruitful and successful deliberation.

. In his opening remark to the advocacy workshop, H.E Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, State Minister of Health, highlighted/enumerated areas of focus undertaken by the Ethiopian government to achieve the universal MDG and stressed that more effort should be made to provide better services.

Ato Kesetebirhan said innovative government programmes, including Health Extension Programme, has brought 70% improvement in the provision of modern family planning services in the country. He said despite the achievements so far made due to government commitment of allocating more funding for FP services concerted effort of development partners is essential to cover the unmet needs and reach the goal of achieving the CPR of 65% by the year 2015.

Ato Kesetebirhan called on development planners and stakeholders to invest in Ethiopia and to help promote food security and FP. He said focus is also needed on population groups to reduce unmet needs and balance it to 10% and reduce HIV, and meet adolescent needs of girls. He pledged partners to help get closer to this figure and improve the quality of service, especially with population focus groups of pastoralists and the urban poor. He emphasized on the need to cover the needs of the Health Development Army which he said are striving to ensure that RH is addressed with particular emphasis on post natal process.

He said the summit in London that will be held on July 11, 2012, Ethiopia will be featuring the Ethiopian government commitment to promote FP and to call on actions for child survival. He said there is a need for integrated service provision for better survival of children and women's access to better services.

He pointed out that there is conducive policy environment and the road map to address health issues with priority and prioritise to women's health and wished participants fruitful deliberations and declared the workshop was officially opened.

Following the opening remark by the state minister, Dr. Benoit Kalasa made presentation on demographic transition in Ethiopia. He pointed out the act of passing on the generation and the factors that put pressure on development and issues to determine FP choices.

Dr. Kalasa pointed out that fertility decline spurs economic growth of 4.8% and..development in all sectors adding that population dividends is a window of opportunities. He said its realisation needs specific policies for potential realities as creating jobs, financial markets, leverages for demographic dividends, and stressed the need for capitalising on young people..

Dr. Kalasa discussed the adverse effects of rapid population growth and high fertility and the challenges of the next MDG agendas in ensuring quality services, which he said is a "difficult job for governments".

In his concluding remark Dr. Kalasa stressed the need for equipping the younger generation with education and skill; creating improved policy environment; government commitment and population policy options and have social policies in place.

Dr. Michael Tekie from UNFPA made a presentation on the global context of accessing RH services while Dr. Mengistu Haile Mariam from MoH dealt with how Ethiopia is accessing FP services in rural Ethiopia.



1.2. Discussion session

Mr. Ibrahim thanked all presenters and said “each one of us has one thing to offer unleashing the potential to meet what we are looking for”.

Mr. Ibrahim asked participants “One Action” that they might take to overcome the challenges mentioned in all the presentations and said it was time for comments questions or suggestions.

Question 1

Ato Negash Teklu, Executive Director, PHE Ethiopia Consortium

Ato Negash congratulated all for their timely presentations and he shared his view of the integration method that is being applied in Kilite Awla'lo in Tigray Regional State regarding the contribution and role of mothers, as community members, to deal with unmet needs and their contribution to change the pattern of maternal mortality.

Ato Negash asked how is the coordination and collaboration of line ministries in relation to the health targets like maternal mortality at policy level to bring in paradigm shift in partnership, and accelerate the target that we are looking for in 2015?

Question 2

Ms Yemisirach from Packard Foundation

Africa is going through socio-economic transformation in the health, economic, infrastructure and other sectors. What are the opportunities that we need to tap? What do these changing contexts mean to our work?

Comment on presentation by Dr. Michael Tekie what are the opportunities to provide FP service from global perspective and what are the options beyond FP service



provision and link it to the context of Ethiopian and global context. (How do we harness transformation in the area of FP and unmet needs from the global perspective.)

Dr. Tewelde Birhan G/Egziabher,

General Manager, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

Responding to the question of sectoral integration, Dr. Tewelde Birhan said sectoral agencies can not take direct mission and responsibility of the Ministry of Health (MoH). He pointed out that Federal Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) cannot be directly involved in the population growth reduction measures. He said improved economic situation can lead to better control of family planning. EPA's role will remain indirect by supporting the economic development making life easier for MoH and make it possible to have access to FP.,

Regarding the nature of integration, Dr. Tewelde Birhan said harnessing what is available in this kind of areas needs attention from government entities and the kind of collaboration and facilitation of support in FP needed by the health sector.

Comment 1

Answering to the question by Ato Negash, representative from the Ministry of Education (MoE) Ato...said partnership with the Ministry of Health specifically focused on the integration of health issues like in the curriculum of universities and strengthening collaboration with NGOs working on RH and FP.

He said other aspect of integration is conducting HIV tests in schools and distributing drugs and distribution of contraceptives; conduct advocacy and adolescent education on RH and FP as well as educating people in hospitals. He said overall MoE is involved in the provision of service, that are of indirect relevance, to support activities of the Ministry of Health.



Comment 2

W/ro Genet Mengistu, Director of Population Directorate of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED)

W/o Genet said direct and indirect determinants are input for population and other variables. Age at marriage of 16 and higher level of education of girls are considered achievements in contributing for the economic growth. The sector established to implement the population policy also provides support for population reduction measures that are being undertaken by the government. Mainstreaming population variables, even if it is not their mandate, contributes to the provision of better services. Monitoring and Evaluation results have also shown that federal and regional line offices are also contributing indirectly, e.g. by participating in technical committees.

Comment 3

Dr. Kesete Birhan, State Minister of Health

Ato Kesetebirhan stressed the need for policy, strategy and field level coordination to resolve the issue of meeting the unmet needs and ensure better support, coordination and harmony to improve quality of service in all sectors and scale up provision of quality services in the country. The State Minister stressed the need for a well designed approach and improvement for a better dialogue, with stakeholders to bring in coordination and integration in dealing with sector development programmes and to meet our objective of meeting the “unmet needs”.

Wounding-up the session Mr. Ibrahim said “each one of us has one thing to offer in addressing population issues thereby unleashing the potential to meet what we are looking for in meeting the unmet needs in population issues”.

1.3. Overview of the “RED BOOK”

Introducing the launching of a new book entitled “Demographic Transition and Development in Africa: The Unique Case of Ethiopia” W/o Genet Mengistu, Chairperson for the second session of the workshop, said an overview of the “RED BOOK ” will be presented by senior professionals with a long term experience in training and research. W/o Genet introduced Dr. Charles Teller as a sociologist and demographer at the Centre for Demography of the Addis Ababa University and Dr. Assefa H/Mariam, as a statistician and demographer as well as a key person in the Population Policy development process and also a member of various committees and associations established to promote population issues in Ethiopia.

Dr. Charles Teller acknowledged younger co-authors of the younger millennium generations who, he said, have high aspiration and critical thinking. He also thanked UNFPA, MoFED and Packard Foundation for their commendable support in publishing the book.

Dr. Charles gave a brief overview saying that the book is oriented by theory, concepts and contentions, research of 20 years and more assessment to address population issue and to conduct research and resolve the reality on the ground. He said the book is a key guiding light to do relevant population-policy-oriented research, to evaluate the impact of the effort made on relevant policy issues decided way back in 2010.

Dr. Charles summarised the chapters in Part I of the book as follows:

Chapter One

- Theory and conceptual multi-causality contact in cross roads and major development programmes and economic crisis
- Framework of the book on traditional focus and demographic response that will trigger development problems



- Resilience, threats and challenges in terms of household migration and labour force

Chapters Six and Seven: a look at issues on national health coverage and the reasons why there are gaps and how to bridge the gap

- the focus on the disparity and ways and means to help make informed decision in dealing with the adopted culture in Ethiopia
- Case studies on the issue of population pressure and low technology that is not allowing the land to be fertile; displacement of farmers because of urbanization, etc.

Chapters Twelve and Thirteen

- Demographic responses to vulnerability and sustainable livelihoods of four regional profiles;
- Differences in stunting and wasting by agro-climatic zones comparing two different worlds of pastoralists and highland people.

Dr. Asseffa H/Mariam presented Part 2 of the Red Book. Dr. Asseffa started his presentation with a vote of thanks to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), UNFPA and Packard Foundation for their financial assistance in the production of the book. He said Central Statistical Agency (CSA) also deserves special thanks for providing statistical data.

Dr. Asseffa said the book is based on 20 years of research and he focused on the following chapters:

Chapters Two and Five:



- The five progressive stages of fertility transition in sub-Saharan Africa based on three DHS (1990 -2005). Ethiopia is shown as moving into the third stage with crude birth and death rates between 1950-2010
- Ethiopia making progress in Child Birth Rate (CBR) and high decline in deaths.

Chapter Two:

- Average annual in fertility decline in Total Fertility Rate (TFR) 1990-2005 showing that Ethiopia **is** one of the six Sub- Sahara African countries with annual 1% TFR decline.

Chapter Three

- Trends in rural –urban fertility divide showing birth per woman and sharp decline at national level but difference in rural and urban areas (close to 20% difference between Addis Ababa and rural Ethiopia) . Secondary education, wealth, residence in rural-urban areas and information as the four major factors making the differentials in influencing CPR, education, contraceptive prevalence as determinant of fertility
- Age at marriage (trends in age at first marriage as key issues for demographic dividends (same as Dr. Kalasa)
- Urbanisation (urban unemployment trend by age and sex using current approach).

Chapter Five

- Maternal mortality indicators and why there is a need for funding to conduct research, and monitoring and evaluation to know the limitations and preconditions in achieving the government's MDG



Chapters Eight and Ten

- Population distribution, migration and urbanisation linkage between rural and urban youth employment issues
- Migration in Ethiopia in its various forms (internal rural to rural due to absence of resources as push factors like absence of land; urban–urban and rural-urban migration patterns)

Chapter Ten:

- Migration in relation to urban labour force and distribution of female migrants in urban areas by age group

Chapters Fourteen and Sixteen:

- Population policy in relation to CPC, TFR and CPR

Chapter Fifteen:

- Population and RH progress between 1900- 2010, progress and constraints towards reaching MDG targets in 2015.
- Issues of data in Ethiopia in the 1960s in which data was not made available with certain limitations;
- Advocacy purpose of data and what needs to be done in generating data and making it available to the media, policy makers and censored data on website.

Chapter Sixteen

- The pathway of barriers from data collection

Chapter Seventeen:

- Summary to the unique case of Ethiopia in Sub-Saharan Africa: Policy and recommendations on how Ethiopia is in the cross roads to acquire the best result.

Chapters 17-18

- Eight preconditions for reaping demographic dividends, youthful research skills , multi sectoral collaboration (optimistic pre-conditions for reduction of fertility and decided family size)
- Rapidly rising CPR in relation to education aspirations and high price of children

The way forward

Recommendations

- Institutional capacity building (in policy and related population development research)
- The need to conduct research and training
- Harmonisation and sectoral survey to find out what is going on through time

1.3.1. Discussion Session

Question 1

Ms Tayech Alem from UN Women

- The issue of more urban female migration is temporary. Where do they go and when do they come back?
- Where do we get the book?

Question 2

Ato Bekele Executive Director, Marie Stoppes

The need for aggressive policy to improve the health sector The issue of migration

- What are the causes and the initiatives needed to lessen Maternal Mortality Rate

Comment W/o Tigist...., Maternal Health Coordinator, Ministry of Health (MoH)

W/o Tigist discussed the provision of health services, awareness and social mobilisation initiatives undertaken by MoH, health extension programme and the role of development army in increasing quality care at health facilities, availability of skilled personnel in health sector development programme of Ethiopia, women given priority as development partners and the causes for setbacks in maternal mortality .health such as believes, cultural identity issues. She concluded saying that the Red Book will help to address and plan for the future.

Comment 2

Honorable W/o Alem Tsehay.... Member of the Standing Committee of the Parliament for Social Issues

As to where female migrants go, there is rural to rural migration due to shortage and /or absence of land. .. They also migrate to urban areas like Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Awassa and Bahir Dar for employment opportunities. The cause for female migration also includes avoidance of early marriage and runaways due to absence of consent to the marriage. Unfortunately, many girls and young women usually end up as commercial sex workers.

The issue of demographic dividend starts with variables to bring in change in age structure (0-4 high 45% under 15). Declining fertility is high in proportion resulting in abundance labour work and reduction in dependency, investment in education, hospital construction and more resource allocation to other sectoral development as well. The issue of demographic dividend is indeed a social factor that calls for involvement of all stakeholders to contribute to the development process.

Regarding the issue of reducing the causes to maternal mortality factors and causes, there is a need to work on more awareness initiatives, consider cultural and economic



factors that hinder women from getting services and attending health facilities. There is a need to conduct large scale study to come up with conclusive remarks.

1.3.2. Concluding Remarks

Dr. Teller concluded his remark on the Red Book saying that donors should make effort to buy this book and governments should make conducive ground to access the book.

Dr. Kalasa said UNFPA will join development partners adding that the UNFPA has ordered 100 copies of the red book. He said “if the cost is reduced we will order 500 copies”.

Dr. Kalasa said there was a high turn-out of participants with diversity of participants from government, UN, NGO and the private sector. He said “it shows that partnership is happening in all sides and we have come together for the end target of meeting the unmet needs. We should come together social there is a need for social investment on how we put in education and gender, to make sure that we have the skill to take the new world order of changing the future generation. The question remains how can we become part of the world order? There is a need for commitment from the Government, NGO, civil society Members of the Parliament and it is for sure that Ethiopia will show success in its RH/FP ventures”.

He added “women and young people will have to play political and economic role. There is also a need for integration of stakeholders, MP...though we still have the challenges to bring adolescence and gender issues to the forum to promote the core issue of RH and FP we need to voice our concern and to continue the dialogue”.



W/o Genet Mengistu thanked the presenters and participants for their contribution and making the discussions so lively showing their commitment and interest in promoting population issues.

Chapter Two: The Federal and Regional Consultative Meeting on Population & Development

“የሐምሌ ወር ደምዖች ወደ ሥነ-ሕዝብ ያመራሉ”

Senior federal and regional population office experts met on July 05, 2012 at the Safari Hall of Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa to discuss activities undertaken by Federal Population Affairs Directorate and Regional Population Offices.

The 9th federal and regional consultative meeting, also a side event of the World Population Day (WPD) celebration was held to discuss on activities , achievements so far, challenges encountered by the offices due to lack of finances at the regional level, and the way forward on how best to include and integrate regional concerns in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) planning process.

Some 25 participants from regional population affaires offices of Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Tigray, Somali, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State as well as MoFED participated in the consultative meeting that was held as part of the World Population Day celebration advocacy initiatives.

Students from Gondar University have also attended the consultative meeting showing that population issue is integrated in the education sector programme, and also that building the capacity of university students and involving the younger generation in FP/RH programmes will strengthen and promote the development process.

Afar, Gambella, Oromia and Harari Regional States could not make it to the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

Addressing the consultative meeting, W/o Genet Mengistu, Director of the Populations Affaires Directorate of MoFED, said the consultative meeting would enable to share

strengths and weaknesses encountered by each region and to improve future performance and bring about national impact in promoting population issues as a government development agenda. W/o Genet pointed out that this year's WPD would be celebrated with different events/occasions one of them being the bicycle tournament that will be held in Dire Dawa to involve the youth in FP/RH programmes.

Following W/o Genet's opening remark regional representatives presented their activity report for the fiscal year 2011. Accordingly, Ato Ayanaw Assaye (Amhara), Ato Zeru Yibrah (Addis Ababa), Ato Demsis Gebre (SNNPRS) made presentations until the coffee break at 11:20a.m. Following the Coffee Break Ato Mohammed (Somali), Ato Mulugeta Mesfin (Tigray), Ato Tadesse Birhanu (Benishangul Gumuz), Ato Hailu Teklu (Dire Dawa) and Ato Fikre Gesso (MoFED) presented activity report of their respective regions as well as MoFED for the fiscal year 2011.

2.1. Summary of presentations

Commonalities amongst regional presentations

2.1.1. Activities undertaken

a) Awareness creation

- World population day is celebrated in all the regions and at the federal level by street walking, tree planting, holding a meeting or otherwise;
- Strengthening the coordination bodies for the implementation of the National population policy in order to synchronize population characteristics and the economic development of;
- national and regional population programmes and action plans and national communication strategy for population are prepared and distributed
- Awareness created on the population policy of Ethiopia , population & development, on the interrelationship b/n population & u, p & m and

population & gender issues decision makers at federal and regional levels as well as to the schools and the public at large;

- Enhancing provision, dissemination and communication of information on population and development using multimedia in different languages;
- Different IEC materials and other publications including annotated bibliography of works on population, reproductive health and related affairs are prepared and distributed to school population Clubs, partners and stakeholders;
- Conducting follow-up and evaluation population and related activities in Weredas, Kebeles
- Promoting and enhancing cooperation with partner organizations engaged with population affairs

b) Provision of training and support

- Training has been given on the preparation of population action plan, integrating population issues into development planning, population, environment & Development, population projection etc. to experts from Regional States, Weredas and Kebeles as well as school population clubs;
- Training has been given on population communication and multimedia material preparation to multimedia experts from the SNNP, Oromia, Addis Ababa and the Federal offices and to teachers;
- Organising discussion and sensitisation workshops with experts, GOs, NGOs, religious and other civic organisations on population matters, on the importance of civil registration and vital statistics;
- Technical & material support has been given to school and youth population clubs, reproductive - health clubs, as well as Regional, Zonal and Woreda population offices;



- c) Compile and distribute database updating on population issues (CSA data projection for planners and production of population and RH mage for decision makers)
- d) Project development to solicit funding
- e) Conducting Monitoring and Evaluation to monitor programme impact
- f) Organisation of experience sharing visits for higher officials
- g) Effort made to mainstreaming population issues in sector programmes
- h) Effort made to strengthen relations with NGOs working on population issues
- i) Effort made to develop and update websites with population issues
- j) Effort made to conduct discussion forums and panel discussions on population and development issues with religious leaders, community based organisations and NGOs
- k) Effort made to celebrate World Population Day (WPD)
- l) Effort made to promote vital registration, vital statistics and statistical abstracts
- m) Aggregate and disaggregate data made available
- n) Provision of training on multi-media material production
- o) Presentation of papers on various forums (on population, FP/RH and gender issues)

2.1.2. Major/Unique Achievements So Far

- a) Establishment of Regional Population Council in Dire Dawa
 - The Regional Population Council is established in Dire Dawa while effort is being made to establish the council in most of the regions
- b) Establishment of GO and NGO forum in SNNPRS

- c) Uniformity in zonal planning for consensus and implementation of programmes in SNNPRS
- d) Addition of four thematic areas in the plan for forthcoming fiscal year in Somali region such as improvement of pastoralist environment, reduction in women's domestic load and provision of RH services in rural areas

2.1.3. Challenges

- Absence of a national coordination body, weak or absence of institutional arrangements at regional levels to lead and control population activities at all levels as well as poor Communication Infrastructure
- Lack of commitment and understanding among certain policy makers whether or not population issue is a development concern in the Ethiopian context
- Shortage and/or inadequate logistics including vehicles
- Absence of experts as well as high turnover of staff both at regional and Woreda levels
- Inadequate government budget and delayed release and interruption of UNFPA funds affecting the timely execution of planned activities

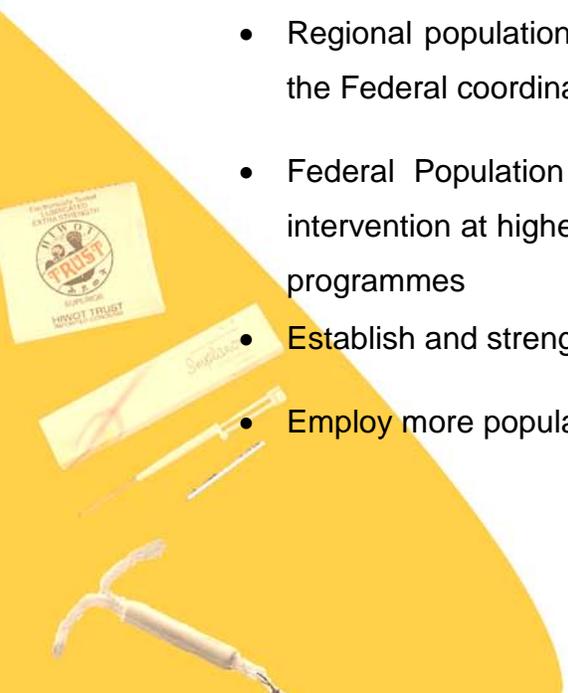
2.1.4. Measures taken

- Improving the capacity of those involved in population affairs
- Enhanced efforts made by some committed population focal persons
- Disseminating unpublished copies of documents, which otherwise should have been published, if not for shortage of funds

- Soliciting additional funds from other sources
- The extra efforts including overtime work of population experts and representatives helped to lessen the effect

2.1.5. The way forward

- Establish population councils and population affairs coordination offices at all administrative levels
- Provide training and awareness creating opportunities to decision makers, planners & population focal persons at all levels to integrate population variables in development planning
- Create and Strengthen capacity of government institutions and civil society organisations to make an impact on the integration of population issues in development planning and poverty eradication strategies
- Allocate adequate federal and regional government budget for population and development programmes
- Plan solicitation and mobilisation of funds and technical support for proper implementation of programmes
- Regional population coordination bodies have to work in close cooperation with the Federal coordination body
- Federal Population Directorate should help Regions to strengthen advocacy intervention at higher decision level in the course of implementation of population programmes
- Establish and strengthen GO-NGO ties and cooperation
- Employ more population focal persons and experts at all levels



- Exert much effort to create awareness among higher officials and decision makers about the importance of population councils
- Exert effort to maximise the use of media to transmit population and development issues
- The timing for WPD celebration should be considered in view of government fiscal year and closing of government treasury
- Population Affaires should be an autonomous government institute (should be out of MoFED)
- Spontaneous pending of budgetary support, without prior notice, should be avoided

(For further details on presentations kindly requested to visit MoFED's website)

2.2. Interactive discussion on the presentations

W/o Genet said a lot has been accomplished despite some challenges faced in the implementation of plans as well as discontinuation of budgetary support from UNFPA for nearly six months. She said it was commendable that regions have mobilised and utilised resources from NGOs and regional government budget line to accomplish their planned activities for the fiscal year 2011.

Having said this W/o Genet invited participants if they have comments, questions or suggestions on:

- A. Profile of activities undertaken
- B. What should regional government's role be in securing additional resources to implement population programmes and what should federal government's financial and technical support be to improve planning and implementation of population issues?

C. Areas of intervention by the federal government to improve implementation of population affairs on:

- how best regions can integrate their plans with MoFED
- what they expect from the federal government in implementing their plans
- What should be region-to-region and region-federal government relations in integrating population issues in development programmes

2.3. Collective impressions forwarded by participants

2.3.1. On profile of activities undertaken

Ato Behailu Gebre Medhin, M&E officer UNFPA, congratulated regional representatives for the commendable activities undertaken and the success thereof. Ato Behailu asked two questions:

Question 1

Has M&E been conducted to measure impacts of programmes on population issues transmitted through the radio in Amhara, SNNPRS, Tigray and Somali regions?

Question 2

What is the status of establishing population councils in some regions and the civil registration process in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa?

Ato Zeru Yibrah, Addis Ababa BoFED, said availability of systematic aggregate and disaggregate data has contributed to the “good governance and population concept” in the vital registration process. Ato Zeru said the impact for such a process can not be achieved overnight and might take 10 to 15 years. Thus, he said it is no wonder that we report we have done awareness raising activities and training on the need for vital

registration at the kebele and woreda level every year for government officials to help implement government policy.

W/ro Genet said a Vital Registration Bureau is expected to be established by government proclamation, adding that establishment of the bureau is believed to bring in effective vital registration system with the active participation of all regions.

Ato Hailu Teklu, Dire Dawa BoFED, said despite the budget deficit, the office had gone one step ahead in implementing its planned activities. He said if the UNFPA pledges to release budget, provide technical capacity building and the required man-power, more can be achieved in realising population issues.

Ato Demsis Gebre, SNNPRS BoFED, said that media has played a great role in the IE-BCC and advocacy initiatives undertaken to promote population issues. He said the office gets feed back from the audience through letters, a live question and answer programme, as well as comments from the audience which, he said, also included comments from the regional State President. Feedback is also received through assessment also conducted at the zone and woreda level through questionnaire.

Ato Demsis said the use of media should be maximised not only to celebrate WPD and make the event a one-time-show but on continuous basis to voice the concerns of policy makers, government officials, administrators, as well as religious and community leaders regarding population issues.

W/o Genet said effort should be made to use government media air time for free and also to use the Birr 200,000.00 fund from the Population Media Centre made available by the Lucile and David Packard Foundation.

Ato Ayanaw Assaye, Amhra BoFED, said base-line study is conducted prior to starting the media transmissions on HTPs and RH for target groups. Final analysis has also



shown that more people have benefitted from the broad media coverage of stories based on real life.

Ato Mohammed Somali BoFED, also said that live transmission of discussion forums held by religious leaders has brought attention and focus to population issues.

Comment 1

Dr. Aseffa Haile Mariam said awareness raising on RH and HTP, in a traditional society like Ethiopia with a very low access to information, would not be easy to achieve in a such a short period of time. He said one can not also boast of achieving rapid behavioural change and progress without conducting systematic baseline survey and M&E assessment method. He said behavioural change could be achieved through a systematic and concerted effort of all stakeholders.

Comment 2

Ato Behailu, UNFPA, said though using the media is important our yearly report should be result-based. We should be able to report the kind of change that was achieved as a result of the involvement of religious or opinion leaders. The question should be have we reached our target and have we achieved the kind of change that we have planned to achieve? We should able to assess what we have accomplished so far.

W/o Genet said nine regions have used media to promote population issues and more needs to be done in promoting IEC initiatives and region-specific programmes should be strengthened. She said the Korean government has promised to provide funding for media support and that the Ministry of Health pledge for media support is on the pipeline. She said regions should be able to refer tangible information sources such as DHSs for more accurate population and demography indicators and make effort to use

free airtime on government media and traditional community communication means to transmit population issues.

2.3.2. On the role of the Federal and Regional Governments

What should regional government's role be in securing additional resources to implement population programmes and what should federal government's financial and technical support be to improve planning and implementation of population issues?

Question 3

Ato Behailu, UNFPA, asked why it is always hard to get enough financial support from the federal and regional governments to implement population issues.

Question 4

Ato Behailu also requested as to who should be responsible in the allocation of manpower and quoted the disparity between the number of manpower allocated for Dire Dawa (1) Tigray (1) and SNNPRS (400?).

Suggestion 1

Ato Behailu suggested that governments should allocate enough budget and manpower rather than looking for support from the UNFPA. He reminded regional participants to work hard and secure government budget to implement their annual plans.

W/o Genet said the issue of getting finances for advocacy initiatives should be stressed and pointed out that it should also be raised at the event that will be organised in Dire Dawa. She said bureau heads should also replicate the posting of focal persons at woreda level like Amhara , SNNPRS and Addis Ababa.

Ato Zeru, Addis Ababa BoFED said “population issues should not be attributed to the mood of individual bosses and we as regional states should make concerted effort to allot budget and at the same time persuade the UNFPA to continue its support to regional governments for better implementation of programmes in population issues”.

Ato Tadesse Birhanu, Benishangul Gumuz BoFED, suggested strengthening structure of population affairs offices while Ato Demsis of SNNPRS said regions have to demonstrate their ability to perform first (internalisation) and then ask the decision makers to allow more budget/finances (externalisation). “Let us do activities that do not require budget allocation rather than lament for absence of finance”. He said “we have to strive to get allocation of finances for population affaires as one of the seven core process sector managements in the planning, resource and finance allocation and implementation of programmes. We should also create conducive environment for discussion forums. We have to exploit the development planning core process department which has more resources as well as UNISCOM M&E and capacity building resource”. He also suggested exploiting the World Bank budget reform capacity building budget (PBS) and as much as possible look and assess for budgetary resources.

Ato Hailu of Dire Dawa said as long as the population affairs office is in government structure, regions should allocate the required budget and manpower.

W/o Genet said effort and commitment from regional experts is required to look for various funding agencies other than UNFPA to secure finances to implement population issues. She suggested three ways to secure finances:

- 1) To look for ways to secure government budget and commit themselves to make population issues their priorities and exploit other resources
- 2) To exploit the NGO option

3) To promote experience sharing between regions that have experience in assessing funding from donors.

She also suggested promoting information exchange amongst regions and also with MoFED through e-mails and other communication channels.

2.3.3. On areas of intervention by the federal government to improve implementation of population affairs

Ato Demsis, SNNPRS, suggested support in the use of media to implement population policy to reach implementing agencies at the zone, woreda and kebele and the population at the grass roots level.

Since there is absence of script and sound programmes like the Population Media Centre, he said there is a need to use the Centre's series drama like “የቀን ቅንት” and editing it in local context for transmission.

He also suggested using population clubs and the woreda school structure to train the youth. “The problem is the script for transmission in mini media and the mini media itself. Thus there is a need to use the 1,709 woreda schools and their school population clubs for an impact and equip school population clubs with the required media equipment” he said.

Giving training and strengthening school population clubs, providing sound speakers and other equipment to school mini media were also suggested to help promote population issues.

W/o Genet said there is a need for provision of technical assistance, training and capacity building of resource persons for material development and phase by phase

editing. She said effort will also be made to solicit funding for the suggested alternatives. But in the meantime she said regional bureaus should make the required effort and reminded regional participants to push on the establishment of Regional Population Councils to help achieve tangible results in the implementation of population issues.

Ato Mekonnen Nana, Senior Expert at the Population Affaires Directorate of MoFED, said transmitting radio programmes without measuring the impact is futile. Thus he said there is a need to conduct baseline survey and a series of M&E to evaluate the impact of transmissions on population issues.

Ato Mekonnen suggested:

- Conducting comparative studies with other programmes and reporting tangible happenings
- Using the Population Media and HIV Resource Centres
- Organising more clubs and purchasing radio, mini-media and print materials to educate and raise the awareness of club members
- Conducting consultative meetings to avoid lope-holes at every stage
- Strengthening GO-NGO network forums and relations in all regions to mobilise more resources

Ato Behailu of UNFPA reminded regional participants that UNFPA has focused on bringing in change in population and development programmes at national levels, adding that it might not make direct budgetary support to regions to implement population affairs. He stressed the need to strengthen relations and networking amongst regions and sharing documents and success stories amongst themselves and using MoFED's network and website for information exchange.

III. Concluding remark

W/o Genet wrapped-up the morning session by reminding regional participants to promote their advocacy efforts and commitment to get technical and capacity building opportunities to promote population issues. She also suggested using every possible means and approach to win the hearts of donors and to mobilise and secure resources to reach people and solve their unmet needs.

Afternoon Session

2.4. The Demographic Transition and Development in Africa: The Unique Case of Ethiopia (London: Springer, 2011)

The afternoon session was presentation and brief overview of the “Red Book” that dealt with Demographic Transition and Development in Africa.

Dr. Charles Teller and Dr. Aseffa Haile Mariam made a brief overview of the book which they said was “oriented by theory, concepts and contentions that was a result of 20 years of research based on data and analysis of demographic information to help address population issues in the Ethiopian context and also in relation to other African countries”.

The authors said the book is a key guiding light to do relevant population policy-oriented research. They said the book could strengthen the knowledge base in the process of policy formulation and could greatly contribute to evaluate impact of the effort made by relevant policy issues to recognize and meet MDG targets.

In spite of the difficulties like food security, population related targets especially maternal mortality rate and high fertility rates, land holding system, environmental degradation, population pressure, migration, gender disparity in resource allocation, unmet youth aspiration and motivation, they said that Ethiopia has also shown some

positive trends like improvement in age at marriage of 16 and above, improvement in education as a result of the enrolment of more women and girls as well as some improvement in health services which have accelerated the demographic transition and contributed to the effort that is being made to meet the MDG in 2015. “This blending of positive and negative factors in the demographic transition is what makes Ethiopia unique” they said.

Dr. Charles Teller and Dr. Aseffa Haile mariam started their presentation with questions that need to be answered to effectively promote population issues as a government agenda, and focused the discussion on the “red book” in relation to regional perspectives to accelerate demographic transition and stay on track in spite of:

- Absence of harmonisation of data
- Inadequate data where quality is lacked
- Absence of systematic M&E system to assess, monitor and evaluate demographic factors and to contribute to population issues as part of the development programme

The authors said the question should always be why is there the highest population growth in some regions (like Gambella) while the population growth declined or it stayed the same in others? Why is there a desire for more children (e.g. why do people in Tigray still want to have 6 children, SNNPRS 3 or 4 and Somali 7, etc.), and what are the issues? Is it lack of knowledge, is it because of lack of contraceptives, distance in places to provide the required service, is it because of different interventions that have contributed more to the decline?

They pointed out that one should be able to make hypothesis, research (with inclusion of every available data and census surveys in your data and studies), test and evaluate the impact of the intervention. As much as possible have a large sample and always ask

as to how demographic change and responses are occurring, some more rapidly and why it has not declined in the last 10-15 years in others.

The other question is where does Ethiopia stand in the demographic transition? Ethiopia, they said is in its early transition decline (stage two) and in the next five years fertility rate will decline as in some developing countries like Kenya and Eritrea, which they said, has reached mid transition decline (stage 4) and as a result, has stalled in the last five years. They said “the question and case in point is we have to be careful to avoid the stall and continue to strengthen and promote FP/RH in regional development programmes so that it does not go back to where it was”.

They said demographic, economic, social, cultural and religious knowledge along with research-based data will greatly contribute in the policy formulation process and to help meet the MDG. Thus we should be able to ask what kind of intervention will work by integration of educational, economic and cultural factors as well as quality service provision to improve quality of life for the present and future generation.

Among the recommendations were:

- Promotion of government service provision (contraceptive prevalence, increase in health resource)
- Education (awareness raising on postponement of reproductive age with 35 years of interval (15-50)
- Economic factors (women’s economic empowerment, creating productive works, promotion of petty trade, reduction in child dependency, increase in employment and job opportunity, etc.)
- Consideration of religious and cultural factors in rural areas (increase marriage at age)

The presenters said the question always remains:

- Why is that “though more is being done in FP/RH there is no decline in maternal mortality rate?”
- If what we are doing now is not bringing any change, why are we doing it?
- “What have we done so far to lay the ground for future progress”?
- Have we thought of allocating budget and funding for research, monitoring and evaluation
- Have we made assessment to know what is not working and what are the limitations?
- Why is that preconditions are not achieved to the government’s goal of meeting MDG?

2.4.1. Discussion session

Question 1

How can we balance the government capacity of creating only 1.5% job opportunities for the up-coming 1.2 million working force and how do we accommodate the effect of the pressure.

The doctors pointed out that there will, of course, be a challenge in balancing the working age group and job creation. “If there are 10 million students with enough schools and teachers and we are able to maintain the number for the next 10 years, we can have less population and we can harness resources to provide the required quality service for the population” they said.

Question 2

Why are North African countries not shown on the map? And please add a legend?

It was because data was not accessible.

Question 3

Despite the provision of better FP/RH service in urban areas, with migrant women still giving birth, is it possible that urban fertility is on the rise?

We have to realise that the migratory gap to Addis Ababa can not be equal to other cities. Thus it can add up and affect Addis Ababa which has fertility rate of below replacement when compared to other urban cities. If migration is with change in age structure of young reproductive age (20-29), the number of birth will increase. There is also an assumption that growing economic, educational and cultural link between rural and urban areas can help reduce and contribute to more rural-urban fertility decline.

Though FP is considered as important determinant, other preventive mechanisms such as awareness and empowerment without financial means do not work. Thus there is a need for integration of FP/RH services with more knowledge and awareness, supply of better services and financial and social empowerment of women to motivate them to have better job opportunity for economic empowerment, and contribute to the development process.

Miscellaneous questions

Other questions included request for copy of the book, reduction in the cost of the book and whether data on RH included the 2007 and 2012 census survey.

Dr. Charles Teller asked what type of support is needed to design M&E system in order to know the impact by 2015.

Regional representatives pin-pointed absence of integration of programmes as one of the major problems in designing M&E system. They suggested the kind of support that they need to implement population programmes as follows:

- Technical and educational support to prepare effective population programmes that will be implemented every year
- Professional support from various stakeholders
- Finance to conduct research on population issues
- Implementation of population programmes through interested groups

They pointed out that Tigray, Amhara, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa have M&E system that could be used to evaluate impact. They said it needs to be standardised and updated to be a system, and that it requires both financial and man-power resources. They stressed that regional governments have to agree to allocate the required budget and man-power to make it an integrated effective system since it takes a decade to integrate programmes. They stressed the need for sectoral M&E integration and thus the need for financial and technical support for its successful implementation.

Regarding the need for financial support from donors, it was suggested to prepare proposals for design and implementation of M&E programmes, with staff support of MoFED, for submission to donors and funding international agencies like USAID.

2.4.2. Conclusion: Reflections of the discussion session

One cannot answer to the “Why” question and avoid stalls unless effort is made to:

- Conduct research
- Make training and education priorities
- Make effort to avoid the stall that we see in other countries like
- Harmonise data for accuracy
- Avoid the gap in accessing data for reference
- Include every available data and census surveys in your data and studies
- Conduct survey census to avoid absence of data which could be a big gap

- Share and disseminate data broadly in regions for CSA and DSA
- Use DHS confidence survey interval
- Make demography surveillance system available for demographic information and population programmes
- Since one cannot answer to the “why” question without M&E, have the necessary data every 5-10 years, do monitor input, output, and outcome and then evaluate the process and its contribution to realising the objectives
- Design a separate M&E system for regions apart from the already existing federal M&E guideline

The Value of M&E

Awareness on the value of M&E is essential for higher officials so that “they could not shy away and be fault finders”. Thus participants of the consultative meeting have come to an understanding that there is a need for more and concerted advocacy initiatives to make officials and policy makers aware on the need to establish, strengthen and institutionalise M&E system for more research-based impacts in promoting population affairs and programmes.



Chapter Three: The Bicycle Tournament held in Dire Dawa

A wrap-up of the five weeks three-course Bicycle Tournament was held in Dire Dawa to mark the 2012 World Population Day (WPD) that was celebrated in Ethiopia for the 19th time.

The colourful WPD celebration was marked by posters and banners that were displayed at the main spots of the city of Dire Dawa with the national and international themes of “Small Happy and Prosperous Family” and “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services” respectively.

The WPD celebration which took place at the Sabian sub-city of Dire Dawa, as one of the side events held to celebrate WPD, mainly focused on involving the youth for successful implementation of FP/RH programmes. Circus Dire Dawa, associate -branch of Circus Ethiopia and established in 1996 by Messeret Manni and Deresse Lakew, made great contribution for WPD and added up colour to the celebration. Various messages regarding FP/RH were transmitted to the audience by Shimelis Tilahun, Getu Tegegn and Mihret Zelalem, young members of Circus Dire Dawa. Shimelis said the racing event would enable to create conducive environment to encourage competitive spirit among the youth in every aspect including FP/RH. Circus Ethiopia also presented various pieces of Ethiopian and African music. Acrobats, hat juggling and double stick were also among the shows presented to “raise the awareness of the public using the art as a weapon of change”.

Facts and figures as well as IEC materials were also distributed to the audience as part of the awareness raising effort to “transfer fundamental information to the public in general and the youth in particular” regarding FP/RH and population issues.

The City Administration traffic police which mostly comprised young volunteers also contributed a lot for the peaceful conduction of the event that started at 9:30a.m. was organised by the Dire Dawa Population Office, Dire Dawa Bicycle Federation and MoFED,

The race was started at 9:30a.m. and the audience which comprised young boys and girls, children and to some extent women and the elderly has shown great discipline during the race. The Dire Dawa Mass Media, Ethiopian News Agency and MoFED Communications Directorate gave a wider coverage of the WPD celebration held in in the city.

Present on the occasion were government officials from various government offices and departments. The weather in Dire Dawa was sunny (with maximum 34.8 degree Celsius and minimum 18.3 degree Celsius) making it conducive to hold the race.

Addressing the audience Ato Haji Ibsa, Director of Public Relations and Information Directorate of MoFED, welcomed invited guests and the audience on behalf of MoFED. Ato Hadji said the Ethiopian government has the objective of eradicating poverty by promoting sustainable economic development and it has devised conducive policies, strategies and development programmes to implement its objectives. In due course the government has made remarkable/ social and economic achievement in various development programmes and commendable good governance. Ato Hadji pointed out that the Ethiopian economy has grown steady during the last eight years reducing poverty to 29.6% compared to the 38.7% registered back in 1997. He said effort is being made to reduce youth unemployment especially in urban areas by engaging the youth in small-scale industry. He pointed out that with regards to population issues and RH the number of people using contraceptives has doubled from 15% to 29%. He said the total fertility rate has declined to 4.8% during the last five years. He said health sector indicators also show that MCH has improved during the last five years, adding that government has also given attention to population issues in its five year transformation plan and programme. He said the development plan has clearly focused and has made

prioritised raising awareness of the society, building capacity of professionals working on population issues, promoting FP services, and integrating population issues in sector programmes.

Ato Hadji stressed that checking the population growth and balancing it with the intended economic growth rate is of paramount importance for sustainable provision of basic services to the society. He said the unique demographic transition and age-based population characteristics of Ethiopia has resulted in the inclusion of 1.2 million young people to the workforces. Thus, he said, it is important to create jobs for the younger generation to ensure their contribution to the intended economic growth. Translating and materialising the strategies enacted in the education, health, agriculture and industry sectors helps to ensure implementation of the population policy according to the development plan and checking the population growth and balancing it with the intended economic growth rate. Ato Hadji said this year's WPD was being celebrated with the theme national and international themes of "Small Happy and Prosperous Family" and "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services" respectively both in Addis Ababa and DireDawa with various awareness raising and advocacy initiatives, adding that the bicycle racing was part of the initiatives. He said Dire Dawa was chosen to hold the WPD celebration due to the fact that Dire Dawa has established its National Population Council and has started implementing its National Population Plan of Action (NPPA).

Finally Ato Hadji thanked all those who contributed in organising the event especially the Dire Dawa City Administration BoFED, Bicycle Federation, Sports and Police Commissions, Dire Dawa Television, Dire Dawa Population Affaires Office as well as UNFPA for its financial assistance to make the celebration lively and wished all participants Good Luck.

Following the address by Ato Hadji Ato Asrat Chala, Dire Dawa BoFED Head, and Ato Birhane Mehari, President of Dire Dawa Bicycle Federation started the final 20 round

40kms club's higher course mountain bicycle tournament held amongst 14 competitors representing Dire Dawa City Administration, Harar Beer and Dire Dawa Police. While the race was going-on Ato Asrat Chala was invited to make a concluding remark.

In his concluding remark Ato Asrat Chala, Head of the Dire Dawa City Administration Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFED) said World Population Day was being celebrated in Ethiopia for the 19th time with the national and international themes "Small Happy and Prosperous Family" and "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services" respectively. He emphasised that the city of Dire Dawa and its administration had the honour of celebrating this year's WPD as a result of the focus given to population and development issues and the achievements registered so far in translating the federal and the city administration's growth and transformation plan.

Ato Asrat said this year's WPD celebration was aimed at promoting awareness raising initiatives to reach policy makers and government and non-governmental partners working on population and development issues and to advocate for mainstreaming population and FP/RH issues in the planning process and make it part of the development agenda.

Ato Asrat stressed that government and its partners should strive to strengthen the already existing focus given to population and development issues and realise the five-year development and transformation plan. Ato Asrat thanked all those who have contributed for the successful completion of WPD celebration event in Dire Dawa.

The award ceremony was conducted following Ato Asrat's concluding remark. Accordingly the gold, silver and bronze medal went to Tigist Abebe, Hayat Abdela and Tenaye Manyazewal who stood first, second and third respectively in the women's 10km bicycle race. The race was started by W/o Tenaye Imire, Senior Expert of Population Affairs Directorate, MoFED, and the medal for the winners was awarded by Ato Birhane Mehari, President of Dire Dawa Bicycle Federation.

The gold, silver and bronze medal went to Daniel Alemayehu, Workneh Tadesse and Abel Tibebe respectively for twinning the men's 15 round and 30kms mountain bicycle race. The race was started by Ato Mekonnen Nana, Senior Expert of Population Affairs Directorate, MoFED, while the medal was also awarded to the winners by Ato Birhane Mehari.

Ato Asrat Chala, Head of Dire Dawa BoPED, awarded the gold, silver and bronze medal to Tamrat Mekonnen, Abel Seifu and Dagnachew Tamirat from Dire Dawa Police respectively for winning individual- chronometer. The gold, silver and bronze medal for group-chronometer went for Dire Dawa Police, Dire Dawa City Administration and Harrar Beer respectively, and the medal was also awarded by Ato Asrat.

Finally Ato Hadji Ibsa awarded the trophy for Dire Dawa Police, winner of the 2012 Dire Dawa Bicycle Champion that was organised by Dire Dawa Bicycle Federation and MoFED.

Chapter Four: Panel Discussion held on Ethiopian Television

Thursday July 26, 2012 Harar Grill, Hilton Hotel

A panel discussion was held on the Ethiopian Television to mark World Population Day (WPD) that was celebrated with the theme "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services".

As a programme prelude It was pointed out that almost 1/3 of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and who comprise about 60% of the total population do not know how and where to get RH services.

The panel discussion, organised as one of the side-events to mark WPD, mainly focused on key intervention areas that would contribute for increased access to RH services in Ethiopia. The challenges, achievements so far and future course of action in the Ethiopian and global context to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were also discussed in detail.

The panellists were professionals with long term experience on reproductive Health services and programmes in Ethiopia.

About 15 participants from government offices and Non-governmental organisations attended the panel discussion that was organised by the Ethiopian Radio and Television Enterprise and United Nations Fund for Population Affaires (UNFPA).

Moderator : Enatalem Melese, Deputy Editor in Chief, Amharic Desk

Organisers : Ethiopian Radio and Television Enterprise and United Nations Fund for Population Affaires (UNFPA)

Panellists : W/ro Genet Mengistu, Director, Directorate for Population Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED)

Ato Sintayehu Abebe, Assistant Director, Urban Health Development and Disease Control Directorate, and Representative of Family Planning Programme of the Ministry of Health

Dr. Mengistu Asnake, Country Representative, Integrated Family Health Programme - Ethiopia (IFHP) and Vice President of World Public Health Association

Ato Dejene Getahun, Programme Coordinator, Consortium of Reproductive Health Association (CORHA)

Question 1

What is Reproductive Health and what does the theme for 2012 World Population Day “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services” entail to promote RH?

W/o Genet Mengistu

W/o Genet said Reproductive Health (RH) includes the healthy sexual life of a society based on relations of mutual respect and responsibility and the right to reproduce offspring based on free and informed decision. RH is a reproductive sexual relations and well being of a society from the point of view of psychological, sociological, economic and cultural well-being free from sexual violence and harassment, based on peaceful co-existence, getting the required reproductive health services to lead healthy and peaceful reproductive life.

W/o Genet said the concept of RH was improvised following the Cairo Summit held in 1987 which resulted in the focus not only on Family Planning (FP) but also to consider the provision of Reproductive Health services that is based on knowledge and awareness to make free and informed decision, and to lead a life that is free from Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD).

Focussing on the Ethiopian context W/o Genet said Ethiopia has given the required attention and focus to the provision of FP and RH issues following the 1987 Cairo

summit. She said the main strategic focus of Ethiopia is Mother and Child Health (MCH), HIV, youth reproductive health and Harmful Traditional Practises (HTP).

W/o Genet said Ethiopia is making concerted effort to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) through improvement of the following three issues:

- 1) Giving attention and focus to the provision of and access to quality FP and RH services to meet unmet needs of people. She pointed out that though 40 million women and young girls in SSH want to avoid pregnancy, they have unmet need attributed to various reasons, adding that according to the 2011 DSA 25% would like to get RH services but are not able to get quality service provision.
- 2) Creating educated, well-aware and healthy society. “Why do we say universal access? It is because it is essential that everyone should have education and access to a well organised provision of RH and FP services. We need to get a healthy, well aware and educated society that is free of hiccups related to the provision of and access to well-organised RH and FP service”.
- 3) Provision of youth focused sexual reproductive health education will have to be provided in order to get a healthy youth who has self discipline and the confidence to make informed decision.

Thus there is a need for FP, child- health services as well as youth-focused provision and access to RH services and education to create educated, responsible, and reliable future generation.

Question 2

What is being done and what is the situation in Ethiopia to make RH services available and accessible? How does the RH strategy and health sector

development programme contribute to make RH services available and accessible?

Ato Sintayehu Abebe

Ato Sintayehu said that Ethiopia is at the forefront to translate international conventions and policies related to FP/RH. He said Ethiopia has conducive policy environment to improve the economic, social and political life of its citizens and mentioned the 1993 National Population Policy, Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Ethiopian Constitution as some of the policies conducive to help implement the provision of quality FP/RH services.

Ato Sintayehu mentioned Article 35 of the Ethiopian Constitution as saying that men and women are equal and have equal rights to get better FP/RH services. He said as a result of the effort made by the Ethiopian government the number of people using FP service has grown from 15% to 29% in 2011. He said the total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 5.4% to 4.8% while the unmet need for FP services has declined from 34% in 2005 to 25%.

Ato Sintayehu said the result of this achievement is attributed to:

1. Presence of national policies and conducive environment to implement and realise national and international policies
2. Availability of Ethiopian government Health Extension as well as Development Army Programmes to provide quality service

Ato Sintayehu said the question that we need to ask about challenges to meet the unmet needs and to prevent maternal mortality and other issues related to RH is “why

does a woman who does not want to get pregnant gets pregnant”, he said and attributed the loop –hole to:

- unfulfilled FP services
- lack of awareness and knowledge on FP
- social, religious and cultural influences such as an influence from uncooperative and an understanding husbands

At Sintayehu said the main strategy to curb problems related to RH issues should be improvement in the attitude of the society towards RH and FP services through well organised education, awareness raising and advocacy initiatives.

Question 3

What is the RH situation regarding the youth population in Ethiopia? What are the main issues and major problems regarding most of Ethiopia’s youth population of reproductive age?

Dr. Mengistu Asnake

Provision of RH and FP services used to focus only on adolescents and did not include the youth. Whenever we are selecting thematic slogans for each year to celebrate WPD, we should be able to consider reaching the 25 million youth which consists 1/3 of the population between the ages of 15- and 24. “If we can not reach the youth we can not say we have reached all and ensured access to RH services” Dr Mengistu said.

The health survey of 2011 shows that among women between the age of 15- 19, 12% are pregnant and 4% are in urban areas while 15% are in rural areas. Despite the fact that the legal age at marriage is 18 early marriage and related problems (25-59) have kept the age at marriage at 16.5. Of this figure only 5.2% use contraceptives. Some 23% of married and 53% of unmarried youth are not users of RH services.

Getting married at early age leads to less educational opportunities, early childbearing, less economic development and the consequences thereof. The issues of unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, sexual violence, early marriage, harmful traditional practices are all factors adversely affecting the youth and are areas which need attention. Promoting the delivery of RH services without addressing economic, cultural, sociological factors as well as youth sexual and reproductive behaviour adversely affecting the youth will not come to fruition and that is why we say universal access to RH/FP services should also consider reaching the youth, Dr. Mengistu said.

Dr. Mengistu considered three factors as major problems:

1. Absence of proper information and education to bring about the required attitudinal change and to make informed decision amongst peer groups
2. Absence of provision of conducive and youth- focused health services. Though the health service is provided for free transportation problem, waiting places/wards, queue to get the services might encourage the youth and other people to remain at home rather than seeking the required health service. Thus there is a need to bring the service to nearby villages and to make it available to all thereby making the health provision timely and less costly.
3. Absence of recreational facilities to accommodate the youth. Engaging the youth in various productive activities will prevent youth-exposure to various RH problems.

Question 4

What is the role of making RH accessible to improve maternal health and to meet and realise the MDG?

Ato Dejene Getahun,

Ato Dejene said “we should be able to provide affordable services including favourable service for the disabled and we have to enquire whether the youth receives youth focused RH services and ensure that our society gets and has access to RH services”. Information services should be able to reach the younger generation, and there should be provision of RH services with the support of professionals”, he said.

In the year 2000 180 countries have produced eight interrelated strategies to expedite and ensure achievements in the MDG. It is believed that the process will empower women economically and contribute to poverty reduction and participation of women in economic development. It will also help to reduce maternal mortality rate by 75%. Provision of FP and RH services assisted by health professionals at health facilities will contribute to reduction in maternal mortality rate and increase in total fertility rate improving the status of women and to engage them in more productive activities.

In the case of Ethiopia within the last ten years TFR has declined to 4.8% while provision of FP/RH services has reached from 15% to 29%. He said this change is attributed to the high attention and coverage given to the provision of FP and RH services and availability of focused information to various groups.

Effort is also made to give attention to the pastoralist society as an integral part of the government strategy. He said the government health extension programme should be strengthened while women’s health programmes should be given more attention with elimination of HTP and strengthening of cultural values to help bring in change in attitude.

There should also be an experience sharing with other countries to learn how they managed to access RH services and to reach the majority. This will also help to reduce MMR and provide quality RH services.

Dr. Mengistu Asnake

The assessment on the MDG shows that reduction in MMR and provision of RH services has proved to be successful between the years 2000-2005. Despite the success, some improvements in services are needed for more reduction in MMR. One of the areas he mentioned as needing more attention is blood-lose with in 48 hours of birth giving. He also said information provided at health facilities need more improvement.

Dr. Mengistu suggested that:

1) More attention should be given to:

- men's willingness to contribute for the betterment of RH services
- provision of timely transportation services
- Attitudinal change of the society towards HTP

He said more should be done to bring change in the above “three delays”, which he said have contributed to the unmet service provision and have also contributed to the rise in MMR. Thus more awareness raising and advocacy activities should be undertaken with the participation of all stakeholders.

2) Opinion leaders should play a role in convincing the society to come to health centres to get the required RH services and get provision of FP and RH services assisted by health professionals at health facilities

3) Religious leaders should also be involved to promote and to achieve more tangible results in the provision of RH Services. Though there is a change, continuous effort should be made to help achieve the MDGs.

W/o Genet Mengistu

Concerted effort should be made to bring more mothers to deliver at health service centres with the help of birth attendants. Most mothers do not come to the service centres for fear of losing all the cultural ceremonies and care that they are provided at their homes. Thus attention should be given to the provision of services that have social value and mentioned the case of Tigrai Social Services practiced at three health centres, which have provided all the required cultural services (e.g. coffee ceremony) at the health centres. Thus there is a need to conduct research on different cultural and social values that could contribute to more culture-friendly service centres and practice them on health institutions as much as possible.

W/o Genet said improvement in transportation is also another concern that needs more focus. Given the difficulty to reach at health posts from remote areas people tend to choose giving birth at home than going to health posts. She said effort should be made to get organised and to strategise on how to get ambulance at least at woreda level or otherwise to strengthen cultural transportation systems that have proved to be effective since time immemorial.

W/o Genet pointed out that the 2011 DHS shows that out of the total fertility of 4.8 children per woman there is an additional 1.8 children per woman. This shows that in the absence of RH services there are additional two unwanted births, unable to make women to decide the number of children that they want. The age at marriage has remained 16 in urban and 12 in rural areas, a young age to bear the burden of a married life that needs prior physical, financial, economic and psychological readiness. Thus, she said, societal support for women's education and prevention of HTP by stopping early marriage will have a pivotal role in ensuring women's empowerment and their involvement in the development process.

Question 5

What are the main challenges in meeting the unmet need of FP/RH services in Ethiopia?

Ato Sintayehu

Ato Sintayehu said though the Ethiopian government is trying hard to establish well-functioning health system to provide the required service to prevent maternal mortality rate (MMR) is still on the rise. He pin-pointed the two problems identified by the government as major and key problems. According to Ato Sintayehu:

- the major problems comprise inadequate service provision and lack of infrastructure in some areas
- while the key problem lies in social attitude of the public and the low turn out in number of service recipients due to lack of information and cultural setbacks

Ato Sintayehu emphasised that more advocacy initiatives and IEC activities need to be carried out to educate the public. He said on-the-job short term training is also necessary to build the capacity of professionals and service providers (e.g emergency surgeon programme), and also to add the number of health professionals and health extension army to help bring in the public to the service centres and prevent maternal mortality. He said strengthening relations between government and non-governmental organisation is also necessary to fill the gap observed in preventing MMR and supplement government effort.

Question 6

What was the role of the recently held London Summit on Family planning in meeting and realizing this year's theme of "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Service"? What was the objective of the meeting and what were the issues

discussed? What are the commitments and pledges made by countries including Ethiopia?

Ato Sintayehu

Ato Sintayehu said the London Summit was a meeting that brought together many heads of states of developing and developed countries and their partners (international agencies, the private sector, and civil society). It was a meeting organized to mobilise the required financial, political and service delivery resources and commitments for the provision of contraceptive information, services and supplies.

He said the objective of the Summit, organized by the UK Department for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was to ensure that development programmes embrace FP and RH as their main development priority.

Ato Sintayehu said the meeting was a pledge made by governments and their stakeholders to help 120 million women in 69 developing countries to use contraceptives, and they have pledged \$403 billion between 2012 and 2020. NGOs have pledged for \$2.3 billion while other partners pledged for the remaining \$2.6 billion.

Regarding commitments and efforts made by the Ethiopian government to promote FP and RH services, Ato Sintayehu cited the explanation given by H. E Prime Minister Meles Zenawi as evidence on how Ethiopia has made family planning its national development priority. (The Lancet Series www.thelancet.com, The Lancet, [Volume 380, Issue 9837](#), Pages 78 - 80, 14 July 2012).

Ato Sintayehu quoted Ato Meles Zenawi as saying "... it will be difficult for us to make sustained progress on MDGs without making methods of family planning universally accessible to all women who would like to use them".

He summarised that Ethiopia's commitment and wide-ranging contribution to prioritising family planning and reducing the barriers to contraceptive use is attributed to:

- the commitment of political leaders and policy makers and stakeholders to prioritise FP in sector programmes and create conducive environment to implement intervention programmes
- Creating enabling environment to strengthen the health system in order to provide FP services by providing training for health workers, developing M&E and enhancing stock-management system
- Provision of extended FP with the involvement of the community to enhance involvement of men and to help overcome geographical and financial problems that are faced by many women
- Promotion and facilitation of the involvement of social marketing and a wide range of private health providers in the provision of family planning as well as strong partnership forged with religious and opinion leaders
- Allocation of the required funding, in cooperation with stakeholders for sustainable supply of FP services

He said more needs to be done to strengthen on-going efforts to make FP as a government development agenda.

Ato Sintayehu quoted Dr. Tewodros Adhanom, Minister of Health, who made presentations at the Summit Meeting as saying “**Ethiopia’s significant success** in family planning is a result of the government’s strong commitment to increasing access to modern contraception”.

Ato Sintayehu said according to the presentation made by Dr. Tewodros at the Summit Meeting the modality **used to achieve the success has been to:**

- **Post health extension workers in every village, to counsel both sexes and administer a range of modern contraceptives**
- **Integrate** population issues into all socio-economic development plans to facilitate overall development of the country and mainstreaming FP/RH in all sector programmes
- Allocate federal government budget for the purchase of contraceptives and implementation of the same by the regional government to support federal government fund
- Government attention and focus given to meet the unmet needs of FP for the youth who require targeted interventions to improve their access to reproductive health information, services, and supplies
- Focus also given, through the health extension programme, to the unmet needs of 25-35% of young married women and effort made to reach them in urban areas, schools and youth centres

Efforts are also made to:

- Meet the unmet needs of the pastoralist society and areas who give birth to 7 children.
- Include religious leaders and consider cultural factors in mobilising the society for successful FP programmes

Ato Sintayehu quoted the Minister as urging development partners to “provide additional funding through the MDG Performance Fund, strengthen the consistent supply chain of contraceptives, provide technical assistance for a faster quality assurance process to help increase the availability of FP commodities as well as reduction of manufacturers on unit costs of products”.

Ato Sintayehu summed-it-up saying that Ethiopia was the centre of attention and that governments were surprised in the progress that Ethiopia is making in prioritising FP/RH as a government agenda.

Question 7

What should be the way forward to ensure Universal Access to Reproductive Health Service?

Dr. Mengistu Asnake emphasized on the need for:

- Continuing and strengthening family life skill education
- Focussing on schools to reach the youth and to make a difference in shaping up the youth and make them responsible citizens before they change their attitude and be a hub for misdeed
- Strengthening family discussions on FP/RH
- Creating youth-friendly recreational centres and facilities

Ato Dejene Getahun stressed the need for:

- A targeted and strategic approach to provide FP/RH services and meet the unmet needs
- Integration of service provision such as HIV test, FP/RH counselling services etc
- Improving quality service provision and reaching the society at all levels
- Allocation, by the government, of the required budget for FP/RH and mobilisation resources at woreda level
- Enhancement of public participation and building more health centres to ensure quality services and access to RH services

Discussion session

Comment 1

Ato Atnafu Setegn, Training Coordinator, DKT Ethiopia

Ato Atnafu said 90% of pregnancies are delivered at home without health assistants and that the number of women prone to pre-and-post natal incidents is on the rise.

He emphasised that service centres should strive to deliver services that would promote safe motherhood. He added that awareness and advocacy initiatives should be strengthened to add up the number of mothers that come to service centres and practice safe motherhood provided at health facilities.

Comment 2

Ato Fekadu Jaleta, Programme coordinator, DSW-Ethiopia.

Ato Fekadu said in order to provide the required service in FP/RH services and to meet the unmet needs of women, support to economic and cultural intervention should be made to ensure the well being of women and children.

He said “we should be able to promote culturally and traditionally accepted practises that are healthy and which could be replicated by others as an experience sharing programmes”. He said a lot needs to be done to promote healthy cultural settings that promote the social, political and economic development and well being of women and children.

Ato Fekadu said cultural traditional practices should be replicated by others through experience sharing interventions for multiplier effect and as part of educational interventions.

He pointed out that population issue, being more political in nature, government and stakeholders should be able to promote quality information and education services to the society to make them aware, to change their attitude and help them make informed decision.

He said federal and regional governments should make concerted effort to make FP/RH their development agenda to help meet the MDG.

Comment 3

Ato Desta Kebede, Programme Director, Family Planning Association of Ethiopia

“Where there is poverty there is no development”. Ato Desta said though the Ethiopian government and its development partners are making effort to promote FP/RH and make it a development agenda to meet the MDG, more needs to be done and focus should be given to:

- Providing service to the youth based on a strategic approach that considers age, sex, cultural settings as well as social values
- Investing on MCH
- Strengthening and supporting social support-groups like the Tigray experience
- Working with religious and opinion leaders as part of IEC and advocacy initiatives
- Mainstreaming FP/RH in sector programmes
- Educating women and girls to make them economically strong
- Integrating sector programmes to contribute to national development

The moderator thanked panel discussants and participants for their contributions and making the discussion session lively.

The panel discussion wound -up at 4:00p.m.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants

Consultative Meeting in Relation to World Population Day Celebration, July 2012

S. No.	Name
1	Mihret Negash
2	Menbere Wubneh
3	Basazin Desarm
4	Abreham Degif
5	Hailu Teklu
6	Terefe Bogale
7	Bekele Robe
8	Zeru Yibrah
9	Fikre Gesso
10	Abebaw Eshete
11	Mekonnen Nana
12	Mulugeta Mesfin
13	Tadesse Birhanie
14	Mengesha Meshena
15	Fekadu Lemma
16	Workneh Eshete



17	Behailu Gebremedihin
19	Hussein Abdurahman
20	Yohannes Getachew
21	Abas Mohammed
22	Mohammedaman Girage
23	Demsis Gebre
24	Ayanaw Assaye

Participants of the July 2012 Celebration of World Population Day in Dire Dawa

S. No.	Name
1	Tesfaye Workalmahu
2	Commander Addis Hagos
3	Hailemariam Amare
4	Pawulos Deginet
5	Mohammed Awol
6	Shimelis Tilahun
7	Getu Tegenge
8	Mihiretu Zelalem
9	Behar Feyera
10	Temesgen Lena
11	Fikadu Kibrehail
12	Taju Mohammed
13	Asrat Defar
14	Argaw Nuda
15	Getahun Mernie
16	Yonas Adal
17	Tesfaye Abdissa
19	Zerihun Genene
20	Tedila Tessema
21	Yared Mammo



Annex 2: Speeches

2.1. Welcoming Note by Mr. Benoit Kalasa, UNFPA Representative

Welcoming Note

2012 WORLD POPULATION DAY

“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES”

Building the Momentum to Meet the Unmet Need for Family Planning

Advocacy workshop, Hilton Hotel, 4 July 2012

Mr. Benoit Kalasa, UNFPA Representative

Your Excellency Dr. Kesetberehan Admasu

Your Excellency Dr. Abraham Tekeste

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, colleagues and Friends

May I, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), welcomes you all to this important workshop we are organizing in view of the 2012 World Population Day and the London Summit on Family Planning. It is indeed a great pleasure for us to have so many of our counterparts, development partners, and colleagues from regions and the United Nations Country Team. We are pleased to have this opportunity to meet and work with you for the development of this country.

Each year, World Population Day focuses attention on the urgency and importance population and reproductive health, particularly in the context of overall development, and the need to address these issues. With world population surpassing 7 billion, we have the opportunity to accelerate progress towards one fundamental goal: Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services, which is the theme of World Population Day this year.

This year's theme was chosen to re-energize commitments towards universal access to reproductive health and recognize those who provide information, services and supplies. Universal access to reproductive health by 2015 is also one of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Years earlier, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has also called for universal access by 2015 to reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infection, including HIV. But we have along to go through time is not on our side.

Reproductive health problems remain the leading cause of ill health and death for women and childbearing age worldwide. Some 222 million women, who would like to avoid or delay pregnancy, lack access to effective family planning. Nearly 800 women die every day in the process of giving life. About 1.8 billion young people are entering their reproductive years, often without the knowledge, skill and services they need to protect themselves.

Your Excellency Dr. Kesetberhan Admasu

Your Excellency Dr. Abraham Tekeste

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, colleagues and Friends

We may all be aware that a ground breaking Summit on Family planning is being organized to take place in London on July 11, 2012 which is the World Population Day. UNFPA is supporting this family Planning summit in its effort to extend voluntary family planning to all who want it. The summit is expected to launch an unprecedented initiative to meet the need for modern family planning in developing countries. The aim is to mobilize the political will and extra resources needed to give 120 million more women access family planning by 2020. In order to achieve this, the summit will seek to focus efforts for the next 5 years in 69 countries among which Ethiopia is the one where this need is highest. Hence, this year's World Population Day will be a day when commitments will be renewed globally to improve access to Family Planning.

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to enable women and men to choose how many children they have through the use of modern contraception as has been stated in the Growth and Transformation Plan, the Health Sector Development Plan, and the National Population Policy. The Government targets to have 66% of contraceptive prevalence rate by 2015.

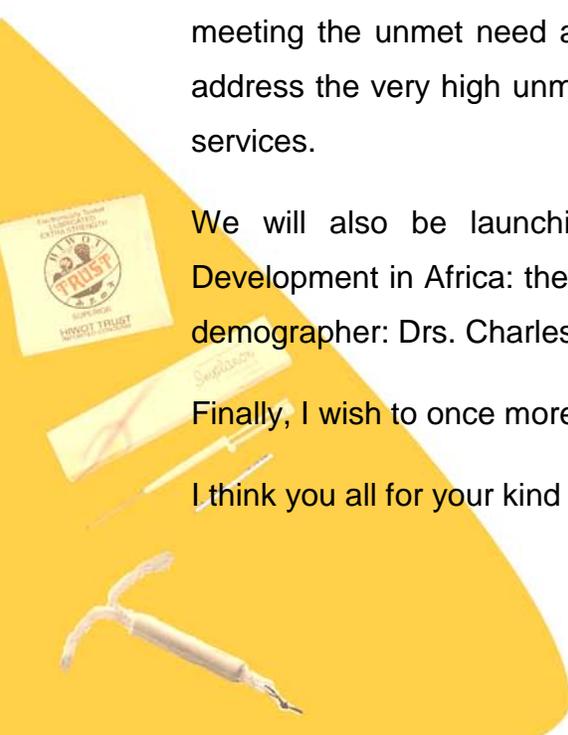
The country has achieved significant success towards this goal. The 2011 DHS has showed a doubling of the contraceptive prevalence rate to 29% and a substantial increase in the use of modern methods. The unmet need for family planning has declined to 25% in 2011, resulting in a decline of the total fertility rate to 4.8 children. And yet, we are facing challenges such as large disparities within society with some vulnerable groups experiencing high unmet need for family planning; shortage of commodities and supplies and funding gaps.

This workshop is therefore a forum to discuss the challenges and opportunities in meeting the unmet need and foster partnership to improve access to family planning, address the very high unmet need, and ensure universal access to reproductive health services.

We will also be launching the book entitled “The Demographic Transition and Development in Africa: the Unique Case of Ethiopia”, which is edited by the well-known demographer: Drs. Charles Teller and Assefa Hailemariam.

Finally, I wish to once more welcome you all to this workshop.

I thank you all for your kind attention.



2.2. Keynote Address by W/o Guenet Mengistu of MoFED

Keynote Address made on the workshop organized in connection with the world Population Day and London Summit on Family Planning

July 4, 2012, Hilton Hotel Addis Ababa

By Guenet Mengistu

Director, Population Affairs Directorate

Ministry of Finance and Economic development

It gives me great pleasure to make a keynote address on this very important workshop organized in connection with the World Population Day and the up-coming London summit on Family Planning that take place on July 11. This year we are also commemorating the 19th anniversary the official launching of the Ethiopian Population Policy.

The theme chosen to observe this year's population day is "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services", which is indeed crucial to reflect the progress made in fulfilling commitments made to achieve Millennium Development Goal.

As you all know, one of the targets of the MDGs is to "achieve Universal Access to Reproductive Health by 2015". The international conference on population and development, which was held in 1994 had also called for universal access by 2015 to reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Expanding the diversity and coverage of family planning service delivery through health institution, community based outreach services and other outlets was among the priority areas identified in the National Population Policy of Ethiopia. Considerable efforts have been made to expand and strengthen Reproductive health/family planning services in the country.

The ICPD program of action has helped to further strengthen the commitment of the government and development partners in integrating an expanding reproductive health services.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ethiopia has made commendable strides in a bid to ensure universal access to reproductive health. Conducive environment has been created. Laws that affect reproductive health and rights have been amended. The government, with development partners' support, has also invested a significant amount of resources to improve access to, and quality of, sexual and reproductive health services including family planning throughout the country. To this effect, a growing number of married women in Ethiopia are using family planning methods based on informed decisions. The health extension program which the Ethiopian government is employing has a great role in the country, particularly for those women who used to travel to the woreda capitals to get these services.

Distinguished guests,

As it is well known, when a country's population increases considerably without being compatible with its economic growth, it exerts pressure on the management and use of natural resources, availability and supply of basic human needs as well as on effort to expand socio-economic infrastructure and services. Recognizing all these situations, the government has given serious attention for integrating population variables into its development plans and programs. In the current development plan of the country growth and transformation plan (GTP) population and development has been considered as one of the cross-cutting issues and due emphasis is given to create conducive environment for the fast growing working age population to be productive and actively participate in the development of the country.

Though remarkable progress on reproductive health including family planning has been made in recent years, the unmet need for family planning is still high that one in four currently married women has an unmet need. The government strongly believes that meeting the unmet need for family planning will substantially reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and hence, exerting all its efforts to increase the use of modern family planning method. To this end, government bodies at all levels, non-governmental organizations, professional associations and donors have strong collaboration than ever and increase their efforts to meet the targets set by the GTP.

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my belief that this forum will provide an opportunity to discuss various issues related to improving access to reproductive health services. It is also expected that valuable inputs will be obtained for the London international summit on family planning.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all development partners for extending their support in our development endeavors. I would like to thank the organizers of this important forum particularly, UNFPA Country Office for its support and assistance. I wish you all very fruitful and successful deliberation.

Thank you for your attention.



2.3. Opening speech by Ato Haji Ibbsa of MoFED

የገንዘብና ኢኮኖሚ ልማት ሚኒስቴር

የዓለም የሥነሕዝብ ቀንና የሥነሕዝብ ፖሊሲ ይፋ የሆነበት 19ኛው ዓመት አስመልክቶ የተደረገ የመግቢያ ንግግር

አቶ ሀጂ ኢብሳ

በገንዘብና ኢኮኖሚ ልማት ሚኒስቴር የሕዝብ ግንኙነትና ኢንፎርሜሽን ዳይሬክቶሬት ዳይሬክተር



- ✚ ክቡራንጥሪ የተደረገላችሁ እንግዶች
- ✚ የስፖርት ቤተሰቦችና ተሳታፊዎች!
- ✚ ክቡራትና ክቡራን!

ከሁሉ አስቀድሜ በአገራችን የኢትዮጵያ ሥነሕዝብ ፖሊሲ ይፋ የሆነበት 19ኛ ዓመትና የዓለም ሥነሕዝብ ቀንን ምክንያት በማድረግ በተዘጋጀው በዚህ ስፖርታዊ ውድድር ለተገኛችሁ ሁሉ በራሴና በገንዘብና ኢኮኖሚ ልማት ሚኒስቴር ስም ከፍ ያለ ምስጋና አቀርባለሁ ።

ፈጣንና ቀጣይነት ያለው ፍትሃዊ የኢኮኖሚ ዕድገት በማስመዘገብ ልማትን የማፋጠንና ድህነትን የማስወገድ ዓላማ ያለው ሲሆን የሀገሪቱን አጠቃላይ የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ለመምራት የሚያስችሉ ልዩ ልዩ ፖሊሲዎች፣ እስትራቴጂዎችንና እቅዶች አዘጋጅቶ በመተግበር ላይ ይገኛል። በዚህም ህዝቡን በየደረጃው ተጠቃሚ ያደረጉ ከፍተኛ የኢኮኖሚና ማህበራዊ ዕድገት እንዲሁም የመልካም አስተዳደር ስኬቶች ተመዝግበዋል። እንደሚታወቀው ሁሉ ባለፉት ስምንት ዓመታት የአገራችን ኢኮኖሚ ባለሁለት ዲጂት ዕድገት በተከታታይ አሳይቷል። ከዚህ ኢኮኖሚያዊ ዕድገት ጋር ተያይዞም የድህነት መጠን በ1997 ከነበረበት 38.7 በመቶ በቅርቡ በተደረገው ጥናት መሠረት ወደ 29.6 በመቶ ዝቅ ብሏል። ወጣቶችን በጥቃቅንና አነስተኛ የስራ ዘርፎች በማሰማራት የሥራ አጥነት ሁኔታ በተለይ በከተሞች አካባቢ እየቀነሰ እንዲሄድ ማድረግ ተችሏል። ከሥነሕዝብና ተዋልዶ ጤና አኳያም የቤተሰብ ዕቅድ ተጠቃሚዎች ቁጥር በዕጥፍ በማደግ ከ15 በመቶ ወደ 29 በመቶ ከፍ ብሏል። በአንጻሩ አጠቃላይ የውልደት መጠን ቀደም ባሉት ዓመታት ከነበረበት 5.4 ባለፉት አምስት ዓመታት ወደ 4.8 ዝቅ ብሏል። በእናቶችና በህጻናት ዙሪያም ባለፉት አምስት ዓመታት አበረታች ለውጦች መታየታቸውን በዘርፉ የተካሄዱ ጥናቶች ያመለክታሉ።

- ✚ ውድ የስፖርት ቤተሰብ አባላትና ተሳታፊዎች!
- ✚ ክቡራትና ክቡራን!

ሥነሕዝብና ልማት የጠበቀ ግንኙነት ያላቸው መሆኑን በመገንዘብ መንግስት በመተግበር ላይ ባለው የአምስት ዓመቱ የዕድገትና ትራንስፎርሜሽን ዕቅድ ለሥነሕዝብ ጉዳዮች ትኩረት እንዲሰጥ አድርጓል። የልማት ዕቅዱ በተለይም የሕብረተሰቡን ግንዛቤ ማሳደግ የባለሙያዎችን አቅም ማጎልበት የቤተሰብ ዕቅድ አገልግሎትን ማስፋፋትና ሥነሕዝብን በሴክተር የልማት ዕቅዶች አካቶ መተግበርን ቅድሚያ ትኩረት የሚሠጥባቸው ጉዳዮች መሆናቸውን በግልጽ አመለክቷል።



በአገራችን ከሚታዩ የሥነሕዝብ ባሕሪያት በተለይም የዕድሜ ስብጥር ጋር ተያይዞ በየዓመቱ ወደ አምራች ሃይሉ የሚቀላቀለው ሰው ቁጥር ከፍተኛ ነው። ይኸውም በየዓመቱ 1.2 ሚሊዮን የሚጠጋ ሰው አምራች ኃይሉን ይቀላቀላል ተብሎ ይገመታል። በመሆኑም በስራ ዕድሜ ክልል እየጨመረ የመጣውን የሰው ኃይል ምርታማ እንዲሆን የሚያስችለው ሁኔታ ሲመቻችለት ለኢኮኖሚው ዕድገት ከፍተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ይኖረዋል። አገሪቱም በዚህ እድል ተጠቃሚ ትሆናለች። ለዚህ በልማት ዕቅድ ዘመን በትምህርትና ጤና እንዲሁም በግብርናና በኢንዱስትሪ ዘርፎች የተቀመጡትን አቅጣጫዎች በተሟላ ሁኔታ መተግበር ለሥነሕዝብ ፖሊሲው አፈጻጸም ውጤታማነትና ለሥነህዝብ ባሕሪያት ከኢኮኖሚው አቅም ጋር ማጣጣም የጎላ ሚና ይኖረዋል።

ውድ የስፖርት ቤተሰብ አባላትና ተሳታፊዎች!

✚ ክቡራትና ክቡራን!

የዘንድሮው የዓለም የሥነሕዝብ ቀን #G<K<ን ›kō ¾jªMÉ Ö?“ ›ÑMÓKAf TÇ[e \$ መሪ ቃል ይከበራል። በዚህ ዓመት የዓለም ሥነሕዝብ ቀንና የኢትዮጵያ ሥነሕዝብ ፖሊሲ ይፋ የሆነበት ዕለት በብሔራዊ ደረጃ በአዲስ አበባና በድሬዳዋ የተለያዩ የግንዛቤ ማዳበሪያ ተግባራትን በማከናወን የሚከበር ነው። ይህ በድሬዳዋ እየተካሄደ የሚገኘው የብስክሌት ውድድርም የዚሁ የበዓሉ አከባበር አካል ነው። በዓሉን በድሬዳዋ ከተማ አስተዳደር ለማክበር የታቀደው ያለምክንያት በአጋጣሚ አይደለም። የድሬዳዋ ከተማ አስተዳደር በ2004 በጀት ዓመት ውስጥ የሥነሕዝብ ጉዳዮችን የሚያስተባብር የሥነሕዝብ ምክር ቤት እንዲመሰረት በማድረግ፣ በሥነሕዝብ ዙሪያ የሚሠሩ ፈጻሚ አካላት በጋራ የሚተገብሩትና ሥራቸውን በተቀናጀና ይበልጥ ውጤታማ በሆነ መንገድ የሚያከናውኑበት የድሬዳዋ ከተማ አስተዳደር የሥነሕዝብ ድርጊት መርሀግብር ተቀርጾ ወደ ተግባር በመገባቱና ከዚሁ ጋር ተያያዥ የሆኑ ሌሎችም አበረታች እንቅስቃሴዎች በመኖራቸው ነው። እነዚህን መልካም ጅምሮችና አበረታች ውጤቶች ዕውቅና በመስጠት ይበልጥ ጠንካራ እንቅስቃሴ እንዲደረግና የላቀ ውጤት እንዲመዘገብ ማበረታታት በእጅጉ አስፈላጊና ጠቃሚም ይሆናል።

በመጨረሻም በሥነሕዝብና ልማት ዙሪያ በህብረተሰቡ ዘንድ ለየት ባለ መልኩ ግንዛቤ ለመፍጠር የሚያስችለውን ይህንን ብብስክሌት ውድድር የታጀበ በዓል ለማዘጋጀት አስፈላጊውን እገዛ ያደረጉትን አካላት በሙሉና በተለይም የድሬዳዋ ከተማ አስተዳደር ገንዘብና ኢኮኖሚ ልማት ቢሮን፣ የከተማዋን ስፖርት ኮሚሽንና ፖሊስ ኮሚሽንን፣ እንዲሁም የገንዘብ ድጋፍ ያደረገውን በኢትዮጵያ የተባበሩት መንግስታት



ሥነሕዝብ ፈንድ ጽ/ቤትን ከልብ አመሰግናለሁ። ለውድድሩ ተሳታፊዎችም በየምድባችሁ መልካም ዕድል እንዲገኙማችሁ አመኛለሁ።

አመሰግናለሁ!!