

FORECASTING THE FUTURE: STRATEGY FOR 2030 POP-HEALTH-ENVIRONMENT AGENDA MAY 6, 2019 MEETING AGENDA



OVERVIEW

On May 6, 2019, a representative gathering of experts who work on multisectoral projects and programs that integrate family planning gathered at Family Planning 2020 to explore the state of population-health-environment issues, articulate collective objectives and strategies, and begin to identify opportunities for strengthened collaboration and action. Working with the **Co-Facilitators, Kathleen Mogelgaard and Clive Mutunga, USAID, this meeting was convened to see where we are in the discussion.** What we learned through this experience is that articulating collective objectives for our community is hard. At the most basic level, we know that we are interested in advancing and promoting access to voluntary family planning, and we value the many benefits that can arise through policies and programs that embody multisectoral approaches to the achievement of development outcomes. **Globally there are many experts who know what must be done and who are part of the FP2020 community. Collective action among these key actors could help propel** political and societal/cultural action to address the issues in a way that underscores solutions grounded in the principles of rights and empowerment. One of these approaches is to support FP globally and locally.

The meeting was held at the invitation of FP2020 with the goal of furthering understanding of the state of play in the environmental and climate change conversation, the new research and approaches, and exploring the ways we can work together to advance this important agenda.

FP2020 explored with participants their interest in having FP2020 to serve as a platform for both discussion and new thinking on the environment/ climate change debates. New research, new approaches, and new needs demand the attention of those involved in family planning and SRHR and call for new ways of working, new partners, and new audiences so we can both ensure the rights of individuals are respected and protected, while also advancing the global discourse on environmental protection. Often in these conversations, FP and SRHR are considered in the context of climate change adaptation problem analyses and solutions. Given that the SDGs cannot be successfully met if people and the environment aren't considered together, FP2020 feels there is urgency in exploring the changes and challenges to find common conclusions.

That said, from the ensuing discussion, numerous themes emerged that the group believes warrant further investigation, with the goal of identifying concrete strategies or activities for collaboration among members of our community. Additionally, as individuals and organizations, we represented a very wide range of goals, priorities, strategies, and values. The conversation was vigorous, passionate, and reflected the many views and recommendations which included:

- Fostering/harnessing youth interests in links between SRHR and the environment
- Greater engagement in initiatives that highlight the importance of gender/women's empowerment as a component of sustainability strategies

- Further exploration of avenues for engaging with humanitarian/disaster risk reduction/resilience efforts
- Deeper brainstorming on opportunities to more strongly link with SDG advocacy and implementation efforts

During and at the end of the meeting, FP2020 proposed a series of follow up discussions to provide more in-depth reviews of the many topics raised. The goal of these discussions would be for interested individuals/organizations to more fully map opportunities/needs/concrete next steps.

FP2020 could:

- Provide opportunities and space for ongoing visioning and action conversations to drive understanding of the issue as it engages with family planning and the drive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals
- Identify possibilities and willingness on the part of FP2020 country focal points to interact with the PHE community through, for example, conference calls, webinars, and other avenues for information sharing
- Gauge the willingness of the FP2020 youth networks to work on FP in environment and climate change in various ways.

As you read this review of the meeting, please identify issues of particular interest and email Sandra (sjordan@familyplanning2020.org) regarding your interest in being involved in follow up discussions on each of the themes.

Additionally, are you interested in a series of meetings through the summer months?

Many thanks to all the participants for their thoughtful engagement in the day's discussions. A more detailed summary of proceedings follows.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The morning began with a few short presentations designed to introduce some of the new thinking, new activities, and new threats to the forefront.

The first presenter shared a few of the findings of a recent report funded by the Danish Family Planning Association, that should be available later this month. The study and ensuing report have attempted to reframe the debate – and the action – that has long been focused on family planning and environment, suggesting that the limited focus provided by the population frame causes concern. The report suggests that “Population” remains a problematic issue as it can distract from the true drivers of environmental degradation (and reference to women’s degradation) and the positioning itself is a form of population control. Among other issues:

- Family planning is an important response to a changing environment – it’s not the solution.
- Challenges: articulating these terms – what it means to ground these intersections in a way people understand
- Should welcome criticisms – try to understand each other
- Document best practices and continue to build evidence base – strong desire to have these conversations
- Climate Change – population doesn’t call into question the western factor of overconsumption

A representative from the Humanitarian community spoke about the environmental impacts of refugees and the potential for integrated activities. She noted this issue increasingly is included in the discussion given there is a huge uptake in the number of countries affected by crisis that stems not from war, but from environmental disasters. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**UNDRR**), the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and sexual and reproductive health (SRH), is seen as a critical component of humanitarian work and family planning has gained increased attention as part of the minimal response to crisis. However, the speaker noted that in this area, humanitarian actors prefer to discuss the issue through the lens of gender and resilience, rather than family planning. They also prefer referencing disproportional health impacts on women. The reluctance for using family planning is the feeling that it conjures images of population control.

A review of actions and actors at the country level defined the support of a group that includes policy makers, program implementors, researchers, and media revealed that there has been a lot of action in southern regions of the world, particularly in southern and eastern Africa and East Asia. High level advocacy for PHE exists as do national PHE networks, which includes their support for PHE resolutions to move to implementation. Other activities and observations:

- PHE Networks – communities of practice are trying to mobilize to adopt multi-sectoral action
- Getting PHE back onto high level agendas
- Increasing the number of PHE projects, integrating environmental projects into FP and MCH
- WASH – TZ, Kenya has bilateral mission support
- Also witnessing new donors in this space, including the Danish Family Planning Program.
- Isolated activities in West Africa that were largely focused on resilience – FP impacting resilience in the Sahel which is generating policy engagement at the local and national levels
- National workshops that have gotten support from national government units
- Biodiversity areas
- Food security and nutrition
- There has been little adequate tracking what is being done in other sectors
- Discussions have changed from getting UNFCCC to talk about women’s leadership on driving solutions to climate change to looking at climate change and efforts to integrate family planning into this work

And there were many questions:

How do we expand this space and bring in new partnerships, particularly given that action has not expanded equally or across sectors and we still need to get national level ownership – it’s stronger at the subnational level

The final presentation reviewed the actions and support for a new UK campaign, *Together we Thrive*, being launched by the Margaret Pyke Trust. The campaign has at its center a call to action for conservation and family planning to act together. If environmental conservationists don’t think about FP as a solution, how do we normalize this concept? The links and conversation starters to get both sides to talk meaningfully to each other will be released on World Population Day. The paper and concept have been presented to 60 different organizations. One interesting finding was that the term P-H-E had no meaning to people.

Some of the strongest support for the call as well as for action has come from organizations in Africa, and the country with the largest number of signatories is Uganda. In many African settings, Using SRHR is not as relevant to the people living in the community where work is being done, but family planning is acceptable both to community members and to those working in conservation. Overwhelming majority of conservation

organizations approached had not heard of PHE (In Malawi where a conservation group is are funding an FP clinic, the people had never heard the phrase and the World Congress of Population – ICUN — linked to gender and they never heard of PHE. Using this knowledge can help us refine our messaging and approaches.

The effort to get organizations on board has proven to have been timed well – multiple organizations are starting to create action. Of the organizations that wouldn't endorse – 100% are northern; there was not even one in the south. Among the reasons for not signing included fears of mission creep, or the need for an internal policy.

Fears that remain – statement focuses on FP, not SRHR, as the broader remit of sexual and reproductive health are not seen as having as strong an impact on resiliency and environmental protection as does family planning. Despite the lack of understanding of the term PHE, there were concerns encountered about NOT using family planning.

- Organizations have a knowledge gap about Population – tend to link to climate change which is less relevant than biodiversity
- Insistence on using SRHR is blocking better coordination
- In the course of socializing Together we Thrive, normalizing understanding as “barriers to family planning” allowed conservation organizations to understand the links and to see that this is not a controversial issue in any way – removing barriers to FP is conservation.
- The Together We Thrive concept paper lays out the ways people can act.
- In the discussion that followed, some clarity was added about how people view a specific environmental protection activity at the local level and how it looks at the global level in terms of climate change.
- Feeling is that PHE is seen as a normal action – The International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, attracts Ministers of the Environment – can FP2020 talk to their MOH and urge them to talk to the Ministers of the Environment, where there often is funding for family planning in programs that are positioned as addressing environmental as well as human health concerns?
- Strategically this community would benefit from stepping back from PHE (or move away from the perception) How do we take this concept to scale, so communities can get behind a bigger vision?
- There exists a lot of interest on the part of young people in PHE – but youth outreach is not strong. Youth don't have “population bomb” baggage. There is a need to put family planning in the context of the issues that are important to them.

CROSS SECTORAL EFFORTS WERE DISCUSSED TO SOME EXTENT

- Work needs to become more cross- sectoral than integrated (cannot say PHE will contribute to all SDGs as in SDG 3). Governments can achieve SDGs but leave out 20% of the most marginalized populations.
- Ensure equity of FP services, livelihoods, natural resource management, and conservation approaches through the use of cross sectoral programming.
- Others argue that bringing other sectors in gets away from removing barriers to family planning – but it can get more people, more donors, more actors from other sectors, as well as political will. However, we need to convince others this approach is beneficial to their sector.
- What do we have in common? Historically we have focused on FP and there hasn't been a focus on SRHR.
- Donors do like to see cross-sectoral action, but sectoral donors don't necessarily put their issues together
- Useful cross-sectoral links: justice, gender, SDGS, Humanitarian

- What can we do differently now? What have we done that has worked? What about research? We need to see more evidence that cross sectoral approaches work.
- Convergence on categories of activities so we can work more strategically together.

THE WORDS YOU CHOOSE MATTER – WE SHOULD BE OPEN TO NEW IDEAS. WHAT IS MOST COMPELLING AND SPEAKS TO PEOPLE FROM THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCE AND REALITIES?

- PHE as a concept is failing because the word isn't getting out. Women and their biology is somehow separate from everything else. We protected it, but ghettoed ourselves in so doing. So we have not been able to reach out/impact other sectors. Yet women's roles in these other sectors is significant – this needs to be formalized and normalized.
- Every domain speaks their own language and largely do not speak effectively to each other. And are people willing to step outside their own sectors, or preferred language, to reach a common goal. In this meeting we weren't able to come up with a goal – what is it we are all trying to accomplish with these links between human health and fertility and the environment?
- Example of PRB rebranding: People Health Planet
- Need to think through language (great to get alignment in this community) and to clearly articulate how the language is being used, in what context, and clear understanding of what is being solved for once language is stripped away

KEY CHALLENGES

- Donors are siloed
- Policies are siloed
- Not enough new projects
- Without new projects, not enough data
- How can we get the message out and how do we synthesize?
- There are few, if any, donors who are interested in supporting work that uses demographic issues as an entry point for promoting investments in FP/SRHR.
- We do need to talk about more funding? How do we start this conversation? Hewlett is recruiting for a US domestic climate justice position - look at their language. Look at how countries have moved this conversation forward (with Uganda as an example). Also having language in a national plan does not necessarily translate into programs on the ground.
- Is Wellcome Trust in UK a possibility?
- Where would country ownership or domestic financing go?

NEW APPROACHES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- More organizations are thinking about gender in terms of conservation (MSI changing their strategy). Looking at design and programs that are robust in climate change/environmental mitigation – going to them and say can we do PHE as well?
- Do more with the gender community (ie ARROW) and there is interest in civil society to do more on gender and the environment – get family planning into the conversation. RH is seen as a third rail issue, so there is resistance.
- More analysis and dissemination of environmental/health impacts
- Reach out to the faith community and leverage this connection.
- Demographic changes and impact of urban environments – Rockefeller, Bloomberg Foundations fund such work

- Look at multilaterals – including the Green Climate Fund – countries being moved to driving seat to form these projects. Can we enter this space with in-country partners?
- Women and Gender community involved in climate change discussions
- Organizations that have gotten Family Planning included in national adaptation plans
- Planetary Health – last climate summit.
- WHO had a connected conversation.
- UNFCCC
- Despite tensions between Family Planning and SRH, both were acknowledged as important interventions – lines or connections needed in both spaces so we can continue and foster relationships with gender activists (of which DNFPA and ARROW are part)
- Gender powerful right now – it's supposed to be mainstreamed into conservation; but there's not money for it. If we crack that nut, we're not going to gain much.
- The evidence is not all that powerful and compelling
- It makes sense logically – can we make the case financially that PHE makes sense economically
- Must build the research base
- Resilience is the new buzzword – maybe we should talk about multisectoral resilience projects rather than PHE

WHAT DOES THE GROUP WANT TO DO?

- Research, evidence and learning – is this the way forward?
- Youth networks
- The Food, Energy, Water Population Nexus
- Reproductive justice is being linked and a lot of climate activists are taking this forward and getting a lot of media interest
- There's been growth in the gender beat – reporters looking for the kinds of stories that reflect this link ie documentary film makers wanting to do programs on new work in environmental sustainability. Look for opportunities to engage media.
- Emerging dialogues around food security – creating a sustainable food future – 9 strategies including replacement level fertility in SSA – is there an opportunity to flesh this out?
- Adopt/adapt the tactics in **Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming**, edited by Paul Hawken, that shows a combination of educating girls and family planning, which together could reduce 120 gigatons of CO₂-equivalent by 2050 — more than on- and offshore wind power combined (99 GT). Lecture by Paul Hawken:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1Dwrrylsrl>

Top 10 solutions to climate change

Total gigatons of CO2-equivalent emissions that could be reduced by 2050

SOLUTION		PLAUSIBLE SCENARIO		DRAWDOWN SCENARIO		OPTIMUM SCENARIO
Refrigerant Management	1	89.74	2	96.49	3	96.49
Wind Turbines (Onshore)	2	84.60	1	146.50	1	139.31
Reduced Food Waste	3	70.53	4	83.03	4	92.89
Plant-Rich Diet	4	66.11	5	78.65	5	87.86
Tropical Forests	5	61.23	3	89.00	2	105.60
Educating Girls	6	59.60	7	59.60	8	59.60
Family Planning	7	59.60	8	59.60	9	59.60
Solar Farms	8	36.90	6	64.60	7	60.48
Silvopasture	9	31.19	9	47.50	6	63.81
Rooftop Solar	10	24.60	10	43.10	13	40.34

Source: Project Drawdown



OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) is organizing the 8th African Population Conference (APC), November 18-22, 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. Theme: “Harnessing Africa’s Population Dynamics for Sustainable Development: 25 Years After Cairo And Beyond <https://iussp.org/en/8th-african-population-conference>”
- Reconnect and build friendships with Senator Leahy to assure a continued congressional earmark for PHE.
- Economics – issue has not come up but we need to think about this in view of US politics. Need better talking points on how it drives economic growth.

NEXT STEPS

- Review of meeting notes, which distill the conversation, and people invited to discuss what may be missing or needed
- Future consultations that build on today’s meetings
- Online webinars to explore key issues with a broader audience
- Engaging more robustly with southern partners
- Where does FP2020 have comparative advantages/added value in this discussion? We have reach into youth networks/southern partners/ influencers – can we identify solid ways to move forward with these populations?

During the lengthy breakout session, an attempt was made for a goals statement, but the group was not quite ready to tackle this as well. All thoughts were captured on paper posted around the room and topics and ideas follow:

Goal 1 Strengthen community-based PHE projects and encourage local ownership and financing

Goal 2: Promote multisectoral approaches (that incorporate family planning) to development at all levels; Additional research

Goal 3: Increase support for FP/SRHR/gender equity/empowerment, etc

Goal 4: Revive donor interest in our work and work toward sustainable support for concept of PHE as a way to reach unreachable communities

Instead, of goals, the group moved on to breaking ideas into actions that should be undertaken.

NEW AND DIFFERENT

- Find new actors and champions to support the issue, ie U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez comments on having kids in the era of climate change
- More organizations interested in talking about gender, women’s empowerment, etc (growing media interest)
- Opportunities to add population and health to environmental projects
- Feed into gender/climate conversations – add reproductive health
- Hewlett has new position on climate justice in the US – expand to global level and show the linkages?
- Opportunities to reach out to faith communities.
- Opportunities to link to emerging interest in urban health.
- Multilaterals - e.g. Green Climate Fund – working with in-country partners on plans and proposals
- Tap into resilience (climate, development, DRR)
- Tap into food security dialogues (such as those related to Famine Early Warning Systems – FEWS; and long-term scenarios for achieving global food security)
- Fringe groups on reproduction and environment (reproductive justice)
- “Drawdown” implementation strategies
- Women and gender constituency under UNFCCC-SRHR demand (ARROW and DFPA very active)
- Opportunities with broader linkages to health?
- Need to build a compelling research base on non-demographic link from FP to sustainability
- Need more dollars for this research
- New population projections (<http://worldpopulationreview.com/>)
- Convention for Biological Diversity – Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity is dedicated to promoting sustainable development. Conceived as a practical tool for translating the principles of Agenda 21 into reality, the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and microorganisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live. Through various activities, some youth led, countries are developing national plans and activities, many of which mention pop/FP
- ICPD+25 – Opportunities to revive attention to sustainable development as component of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- Upcoming African Population Conference
- Can we continue to count on Sen. Leahy for language on appropriations?

- Need to think about messaging that could withstand hostile political environment in US (economic links? measurement agenda to show impact?)

AREAS FOR COLLABORATION AND IDEA-SHARING

- Developing a research agenda
- Cultivating new messengers – youth (youth coalitions and networks)
- Sharing our Knowledge/membership/affiliations for maximum impact
- Language is important, as has been noted, and we need to agree on common ground
- Integrated vs cross-sectoral vs. Multisectoral
- PHE
- Removing barriers to FP
- Sustainable Finance
- Getting Evidence Out
- What’s New and Different
- Multisectoral approaches for greater equity (including justice) within SDG framework
- New Actors to Support (FP/SRHR)

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

- Normalize PHE approach
- -Standard approach for conservation, SDG implementation, UHC, improving equity, achieve greater equity
- Develop strategies, new directions for going to scale
- Contribute to achievement of SDGs (for most marginalized, vulnerable) through use of integrated, cross-sectoral programming

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SOME RECENT ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE IMPACTED THIS QUICKLY MOVING ISSUE:

- **A report released at the Global Environment Outlook meeting in Nairobi** painted a bleak picture for humanity if we don't halt current trends. Clive Mutunga pulled out one important point, noting “we have a duty to help build the evidence and move this from ‘established but incomplete’ to ‘well established.’ “Decreased child and maternal mortality, especially when combined with female education and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including modern contraception, is likely to lead to lower fertility rates in the longer term, curbing population growth, one of the major drivers of environmental degradation, thus highlighting the fact that healthy people can also support a healthy planet.” <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>
- At the end of 2018, FP2020 and many others, participated in a survey commissioned by the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) and the Population Sustainability and Development Alliance (PSDA) to consider the ‘State of the Conversation: Climate change, population dynamics and sexual and reproductive rights and health’ to explore how in the era of climate change debates around population dynamics are taking on new forms and bringing aspects of sexual and reproductive rights and health into focus in new domains. This emergence can be seen through the adoption of the Gender Action Plan at COP 23 (the 23rd annual Conference of the Parties to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the call for greater investment in girl’s education and family planning as climate change solutions and in discussions on the environmental impact of population dynamics.

- David Johnson, the Executive Director of the Margaret Pyke Trust, based in London, will launch the Thriving Together Campaign on World Population Day July 11 to focus attention and awareness on the fact that people and nature are interdependent, and health underpins both. Human communities and ecosystems best support each other when the needs of each are met in tandem.
- Given the upcoming observance of ICPD@25, we also remembered language from the ICPD Programme of Action, 20th Anniversary Edition:
 - 3.23 At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the international community agreed on objectives and actions aimed at integrating environment and development which were included in Agenda 21, other Conference outcomes and other international environmental agreements. Agenda 21 has been conceived as a response to the major environment and development challenges, including the economic and social dimensions of sustainable development, such as poverty, consumption, demographic dynamics, human health and human settlement, and to a broad range of environmental and natural resource concerns. Agenda 21 leaves to the International Conference on Population and Development further consideration of the interrelationships between population and the environment.
 - 3.24 Meeting the basic human needs of growing populations is dependent on a healthy environment. These human dimensions need to be given attention in developing comprehensive policies for sustainable development in the context of population growth.
 - 3.25 Demographic factors, combined with poverty and lack of access to resources in some areas, and excessive consumption and wasteful production patterns in others, cause or exacerbate problems of environmental degradation and resource depletion and thus inhibit sustainable development.
 - 3.26 Pressure on the environment may result from rapid population growth, distribution and migration, especially in ecologically vulnerable ecosystems. Urbanization and policies that do not recognize the need for rural development also create environmental problems.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

<https://www.pathfinder.org/publications/scaling-up-phe-approach-in-the-lvb-a-review-of-the-results-from-phases-i-and-ii-of-hope/>

<https://www.pathfinder.org/publications/a-re-itireleng-lets-do-it-ourselves/>

TED talk. Katharine Wilkinson: How empowering women and girls can help stop global warming

<https://go.ted.com/CoAX>

Pathfinder International and local partners in Kenya and Uganda have implemented the [Health of the People and Environment in the Lake Victoria Basin \(HoPE-LVB\) project](#) since 2011. The project aims to scale up its use of the integrated population, health, and environment (PHE) community development model at local, national, and regional levels by integrating PHE considerations in formal government development planning and policies. “PHE” refers to the PHE approach, which aspires to increase access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and improve maternal and child health care practices, while simultaneously improving natural resource management and livelihoods in project communities.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT

“Tuungane: Project Outcomes in the First Four Years” – Pathfinder, The Nature Conservancy, and HEEA joint evaluation

Family planning and resilience: associations found in a Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) project in Western Tanzania