

The Impact of Population Trends on the Millennium Development Goals

The Ditchley Foundation, UK

29-31 May 2008

www.ditchley.co.uk

What is the Ditchley Foundation

The Ditchley Foundation was established by Sir David Wills in 1958 to advance international learning and to bring transatlantic and other experts together to discuss international issues. Sir David's original objective was to promote Anglo-American understanding. Since then Ditchley conferences have broadened to include the concerns and participation of nations all over the globe.

Sexual and reproductive health and family planning are back on the international agenda!

- After having been the elephant in the room for so long, these issues were not only discussed extensively at Ditchley, but even put as a priority towards the achievement of the MDGs
- Our community has suddenly become very popular and it is quite a change after having had to work hard to make our voices heard and to fight for the right of all women to free choice and access to information and education

Action on Population

- **Distinguish family planning from HIV/AIDS programs**
HIV/AIDS have probably taken the momentum away from family planning programs
- **Developing countries should be given ownership to the issue of population stability**
Family planning programs are largely donor driven
- **Governments need to understand that tackling population is a long term issue**
- **Address the issue of urban growth**
- **Put women in local communities as a priority**
Facilitate easy access to information and services

Policy choices

- **Data availability and reporting need be improved**
Governments should be helped and encouraged to increase their data collecting capacity with regards to the implementation of the MDGs
- **The effectiveness of overseas development assistance policies needs to be addressed**
Program priorities to be reset and new strategy to be developed
- **Implementation of programs and delivery mechanisms need to be reviewed**
There is insufficient coherence and coordination between UN and other donors. Replicate successful programs and set the right targets.

Population and the MDGs

Even if it is difficult to directly correlate population growth with MDG performance, it is going to be a major challenge to achieve the MDGs with the current levels of population growth **without seriously addressing the question of making reproductive health services available for all.**

**For every \$1 invested in family planning,
you save \$4-5 in achieving the MDGs**

While the MDGs should continue to serve as the basic organizing framework, new issues should also be addressed because of the emergence of new problems and priorities:

- Agricultural and rural development
- Impact of climate change
- International migration



The Human Face of Climate Change

Geneva, 24-25 June 2008

*An international conference focused on the
impact of climate change and on boosting
assistance to worst affected poor and
vulnerable populations*

About the Forum

Established in 2007, the GHF aims at building a stronger global community for overcoming today's and tomorrow's humanitarian challenges. The GHF channels the voices and efforts of the broader humanitarian community into constructive debate, advocacy, and the development and mobilization of collaborative solutions.

Key Observations

- The world's poorest groups are the most vulnerable to climate change.
- Additional resources for the adaptation needs of the world's poor and vulnerable communities are currently grossly deficient.
- There is a serious lack of international leadership to provide adequate resources.

Key Recommendations

- Climate change must be a priority on the international agenda.
- Future global climate agreements must include strong targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in order to realize climate justice by providing adequate support and financing for the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable groups.
- Governments must empower communities to participate in decision-making and policy definition for adaptation to climate change in order to ensure the most effective and appropriate measures are taken.

Key Priority Areas for Action

- Triggering of immediate increases in funding by the creation of special funds.
- Creation of partnerships between influential media and advocacy organizations to ensure clear messages on the gravity of the climate problem.
- Promotion of partnerships between climate and health actors.
- Improvement of knowledge exchange and extension systems towards and between communities affected by climate change.

Outcomes

- **Global Alliance for Climate Justice**

A global advocacy partnership for uniting committed leaders and institutions to build awareness and public support for realizing climate justice

- **Weather Data for All**

A global project mobilizing public and private partners to ensure availability of reliable weather information to vulnerable communities

“Climate determines health. Climate change will kill people, will make them sick, will make them suffer, as a result will lead to economic and social consequences.”

David Nabarro, UN senior System Coordinator for Human and Avian Influenza

“There were a number of people who made comments to the effect that in any event we cannot expect more ODA to be generated in the coming years - which is a comment that I firmly reject. Because we have commitments.”

Jean-Louis Schiltz, Minister for Development
Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Communications and
Defense, Luxembourg

“The real point on this planet is that we cannot muster less than one percent of our income to help the poorest people of this world, and millions die as a result of that. And that is the sickness of our global society right now...It’s a matter of getting real. ... 10 million children will die this year of poverty and we barely lift a finger”

Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute at Columbia University