

INFORMATION SERVICE
PRESS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SECTION

50th UNITED NATIONS
GRADUATE
STUDY PROGRAMME
(GSP)

Geneva,
2 - 13 July 2012

“Opportunities and challenges
in a world of seven billion”

Report of the Working Groups



UNITED NATIONS

50th UNITED NATIONS
GRADUATE
STUDY PROGRAMME
(GSP)

Geneva,
2 - 13 July 2012

“Opportunities and challenges
in a world of seven billion”

Report of the Working Groups



FOREWORD

Welcome to the final report of the United Nations Graduate Study Programme 2012.

This year we warmly celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of this programme, which has for five decades brought together graduate students from around the world to better understand the challenges of new perspectives on multilateral relations and international development.

An opening conference gathering former and current GSP students and displaying witnesses thoughts and wishes from all over the world marked the anniversary and reminded participants of the importance of international study programmes in training and developing youth as future global decision-makers.

And in this anniversary year we took the opportunity to amend the structure of previous programmes, condensing the schedule into two weeks of comprehensive, instructive and enlightening education, facilitated by the staff of the leading United Nations agencies in Geneva through lectures, presentations and panel discussions.

This year's groups were expected to design a work programme on the theme of the year – "Opportunities and challenges in a world of seven billion" – for the organization they were assigned to, the UNECE, the UNCTAD, the UNFPA, the UNDP or the WMO. Each group had to outline key priorities of their UN body on this theme, taking into account its strategic, financial and other capacities, and then develop the main activities of the work programme, including their requirements, benchmarks and possible obstacles.

Participants were put into one of five working groups to formulate conclusions and proposals of their own, and took part in a simulation exercise aimed at developing their negotiating and management skills. The final documents produced are now grouped here for your consideration and enjoyment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Remarks by Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, UNOG Director-General, given at the closing ceremony	4
2. Programme and agenda of the Graduate Study Programme 2012	7
3. Glossary of terms	15
4. Working paper one: Encouraging development-led globalisation and alleviating global poverty through a socially inclusive approach to trade and development (UNCTAD)	19
5. Working paper two: Taking Tahrir Square to cyberspace (UNDP)	44
6. Working paper three: Energy for all by 2020: opportunities and challenges in India (UNDP)	56
7. Working paper four: Mainstreaming ageing in a world of seven billion (UNECE)	69
8. Working paper five: Family planning and maternal health Bangladesh (UNFPA)	85
9. Working paper six: The global framework for climate services: A critical analysis (WMO)	101
10. List of participants by working groups	116

REMARKS BY MR. KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva**

**50th Graduate Study Programme
“Opportunities and challenges in a world of seven billion”**

**Friday, 13 July 2012, 15:00
Palais des Nations, Room VII**

Dear Ms. Momal-Vanian,
Dear students,

I am very pleased to meet you and I appreciate this chance to personally offer you my thoughts on the opportunities and challenges facing today's world. This has been the focus of your work here for the past two weeks, and I am sure that it has been both interesting and thought-provoking.

Your programme has been intense, and has been wide-ranging. Since you have already met with officials from many United Nations agencies here, I am sure that you can appreciate the important role that Geneva plays in multilateral diplomacy.

This has long been the case. The Palais des Nations is a historic building that previously hosted the League of Nations. It is the largest duty station outside of United Nations Headquarters in New York. With close to 10,000 meetings annually and more than 100,000 visitors who come here to attend events and to learn more about the work of the United Nations, Geneva is a major international hub.

Whether debating global health issues, working to encourage a peaceful transition in Syria, or supporting the Human Rights Commission of Inquiry in Tripoli, the work conducted here at UNOG has a profound effect on millions of lives. So this is indeed a fitting place for the Graduate Study Programme to meet and to bring together all of you, as future leaders. The active engagement of young people in these and all of the many challenges that United Nations addresses is critical.

The past year and a half have presented some remarkable challenges, as the world has sought to respond to calls for democracy and accountable government. In a massive display of personal empowerment, millions of people courageously demanded a say in their own fate.

With a flowering of civil society and increasing respect for human rights and the rule of law, people in these countries can be proud of these first steps.

The continuing violence in Syria, however, is a tragic reminder that more must be done. The United Nations has been working in close cooperation with the Arab League and others to move forward with a Syrian-led political transition that would meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. The Organization's efforts are being led by Special Envoy Kofi Annan, who is operating here out of the Palais des Nations.

The deficit of democracy and lack of good governance were no doubt the primary influences leading to the Arab Spring revolts. But the dire economic situation was an important contributor, and remains a challenge to stability worldwide. UNCTAD has predicted that this year, world growth will slow to 2.6 per cent, and to 0.7 per cent for the EU. Global unemployment remains high, at nearly 9 per cent. Of particular concern to us – and no doubt to you – is that young people are especially impacted by this: young people today are nearly three times as likely to be unemployed as adults are.

To help meet our challenges, the Secretary-General has laid out a set of priority proposals across interconnected areas. The United Nations is actively engaged in seizing five concrete generational opportunities. They are 1) Promoting sustainable development; 2) Preventing natural and man-made disasters; 3) Making the world safer and more secure; 4) Helping countries and peoples in transition; and 5) Encouraging youth and gender empowerment.

The first of these areas, sustainability, is often portrayed in terms of finding solutions to tomorrow's problems, but the challenges clearly exist today. Having just discussed some of the economic challenges that we face, it is clear that we must work for economic growth, for environmental protection, and for social equity in an integrated fashion. The Rio + 20 Conference on Sustainable Development last month was aimed at precisely this: to mainstream development, integrating economic, social, and environmental aspects.

Member States reached agreement on strengthening the UN Environment Programme, and on launching the process for establishing Sustainable Development Goals, to build upon progress made in the Millennium Development Goals. But as the Secretary-General said, "Rio+20 is not an end, but a beginning." Our efforts must continue based on the progress made, and your engagement will be needed in the future.

The Secretary-General has also called for a genuine focus on prevention across the Organization's work. This is relevant in terms of conflict, as well as human rights abuses and the impact of natural disasters. Preventive political mediation work can save countless lives – not to mention resources – as we have seen in Guinea, in Kenya, and in Kyrgyzstan. The United Nations has been actively working to strengthen its capacity in preventive diplomacy and mediation, both at headquarters level, but also through mechanisms such as the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, and the United Nations' regional offices in West and Central Africa.

We also live in a world where natural disasters and environmental change can push entire populations to the extremes of subsistence. In the Sahel region alone, a severe food security and nutrition crisis is affecting over 18 million people; more than 1 million children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition in the region in 2012. Displacement and food insecurity are severe examples of the underlying factors that must be addressed as an integral part of prevention.

Geneva plays a crucial role in many of our efforts aimed at prevention. In particular, the Human Rights Council is one of the most important contributors to a culture of prevention, with its policy development framework and monitoring mechanisms.

The third major opportunity identified by the Secretary-General is building a safer and more secure world. This is the core work of the United Nations. With more than 1.6

trillion dollars spent by governments on arms last year, we will continue to work to revitalize the global disarmament agenda. This is a particular priority here in Geneva – the world's disarmament capital and home to the Conference on Disarmament. This distinguished body is no longer living up to expectations and now suffers from a serious credibility and legitimacy deficit.

Increased political engagement is needed to advance the substantive agenda, together with concrete steps to improve the functioning of the Conference and to help build trust. The central role of the Conference in strengthening the rule of law in the field of disarmament must be restored.

Whether addressing terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking or other global challenges, our responses will be based on respect for the rule of law and human rights.

This week's historic first ever sentencing by the International Criminal Court also sends a strong message to perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The criminal prosecution of individuals such as Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, who was found guilty of the war crimes of conscripting and enlisting children for hostilities, is an important step towards achieving the safer world that we all seek.

Fourth, we must all take the opportunity to support countries in transition, ensuring that the best practices of peace building, human rights, the rule of law, national reconciliation and democratic practices are put to use. The challenges of the past year and a half, as complex and difficult as they have been, have also opened up opportunities that must not be squandered. Our collaboration in this field must be broad-based, including with civil society, international financial institutions and other stakeholders, and it must aim to put ordinary people back on their feet, and back in control of their countries.

And fifth, if we are to make real long-term progress, we must increase efforts to work with and for women and young people. The past year has shown the power and potential of women and youth. Young people like you demanded a voice and a stake in shaping their societies. The frustration, alienation and exclusion felt by youth and women drove many of the dramatic developments in the Arab world. There is little doubt that it is the ability of leaders to meet their expectations and hopes that will determine the long-term stability of these societies.

To deepen our focus, the Secretary-General has called for the appointment of a Special Adviser for Youth and the creation of a youth volunteer programme under the umbrella of the UN Volunteers. The engagement of young people is important to all work undertaken by the United Nations, and so your personal interest and active contribution to our work is particularly appreciated.

I am pleased that through your participation in this programme, you are embracing not only challenges, but opportunities. You may not have found all the solutions to these very serious challenges in the past two weeks, but I firmly believe that your engagement on these issues is a part of the long-term solution that is needed.

I welcome your enthusiasm for international affairs, and I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Thank you.

PROGRAMME

50th GRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME

Geneva, 2 - 13 July 2012

“Opportunities and challenges in a world of seven billion”

Venue: Palais des Nations

All Plenary Meetings: Room VII, Building A, third floor

Working Groups: Room XV, Building A, second floor

Room VII, Building A, third floor

Room IV, Building A, third floor

Room III, Building A, first floor

Annex 1: List of the moderators for the working groups

Annex 2: Allocation of rooms for each working group

Monday 2 July - Room VII

9:00

Registration

10:00

Opening of the Graduate Study Programme

Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director, United Nations Information Service (UNIS), Geneva

Information about the Graduate Study Programme

Ms. Alessandra Vellucci, Chief, Press and External Relations Section, UNIS Geneva

11:30

Guided Tour of the Palais des Nations

Visitors' Service

14:00

Visit to the UN Library and League of Nations Museum

Ms. Sylvie Jacque, Chief, Users Services Section

16:00 p.m.

Official Ceremony to celebrate 50 years of the Graduate Study Programme

17:15 p.m.

Cocktail

Bar 13-15, Palais des Nations

Tuesday 3 July - Room VII

9:30

Mr. Shigehisa Kasahara, Chief of the Director's Office, Division on Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ADLC)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

11:00

Mr. Adam Rogers, Senior Advisor on Strategic Communication

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

14:00

Mr. Jeff Wilson, Education and Training

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

16:00

Ms. Alanna Armitage, Director, UNFPA Office in Geneva

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Wednesday 4 July - Room VII

10:00

Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

11:00

Ms. Els Klinkert, Senior Adviser, Division "Science for Action"
The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

14:00

Set up of the working groups with the five moderators (UNCTAD, UNDP, WMO, UNFPA,
ECE, see annex for room number)

16:00

World Health Organization
Thursday, 5 July - Room VII

Thursday 5 July - Room VII

9:30

Mr. Ewen Macleod, Head of Service, IGO – Inspection Service
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

11:00

Mr. Jean-Claude Legrand, Regional Adviser, Child protection
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

12:00

Group photo

2:00

Ms. Charlotte L. Warakaulle, Political Affairs Officer
Office of the Director-General

3:30

Ms. Nicole Eggers-Westermann, HR Officer, Secretary of the Central Review Committee
UN Recruitment – Human Resource Management Service (HRMS)

Friday 6 July - Room VII

9:15

Ms. Corinne Perthuis, Chief, Strategic Communications Section, Department of
Communication and Public Information
International Labour Organization (ILO)

11:00
Ms. Sylvie Motard, Senior Programme Officer
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

14:00
Joint working group session to discuss the outcome of GSP with the moderators (room VII)

16:00
Working groups (see annex two for room number)

Monday 9 July - Room VII

9.30
Mr. Jens Laerke, Spokesperson and Public Information Officer
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

11:00
Ms. Lauren Landis, Director, WFP Office Geneva
World Food Programme (WFP)

13:30
Mr. Jonathan Lynn, Head, Communications and Media Relations
World Meteorological Organization/Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

16:00
Visit of the Geneva Chancellerie

Tuesday 10 July - Room VII

9.30
Visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

15:00
Working groups (see annex two for room number)

18:00
Visit to the Graduate Institute (optional)

Wednesday 11 July - Room VII

9.30
Ms. Angela Sherwood, Policy and Research Officer
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

11.00

Mr. Laurent Attar-Bayrou, President, IASP
International Association of Soldiers for Peace (IASP)

14:00

Mr. Serafino Marchese, Counsellor, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation
World Trade Organization

16:00

Visit to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Presentation by Ms. Sarah Parkes

Thursday 12 July - Room VII

10.00

Dr. Amr Abdalla, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs
University for Peace (UPEACE)

14:00

Visit to CERN for UNDP, WMO and UNFPA working groups
UNECE and UNCTAD in working groups (see annex 2 for room number)

Friday 13 July - Room VII

9:00

Visit to CERN for UNECE and UNCTAD
UNDP, WMO and UNFPA in working groups (see annex 2 for room number)

13:30

Plenary session: presentation of the work plans submitted by the working groups
(Room VII)

15:00

Closing ceremony

Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director, United Nations Information Service, Geneva

ANNEX ONE

List of the moderators for the working groups

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Shigehisa Kasahara

Chief of the Director's Office, Division on Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ADLC)

shigehisa.kasahara@unctad.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Adam Rogers

Senior Advisor on Strategic Communication

adam.rogers@undp.org

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Ms. Viviane Brunne

Associate Population Officer,

Population Unit

viviane.brunne@unece.org

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms. Laura Gehrke

External Relations Officer

(Geneva Office)

gehrke@unfpa.org

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Mr. Jeff Wilson

Director, Education and Training Office

jwilson@wmo.int

Alternate:

Mr. Yinka R. Adebayo

Chief, Education and Fellowships Division

Development and Regional Activities Department

yadebayo@wmo.int

ANNEX TWO

Allocation of the rooms for the working groups

Wednesday 4 July

14:00: Set up of the Working Group with the moderators
UNCTAD – Room XV, Building A, second floor
UNDP – Room VII, Building A, third floor
WMO – Room, Building E, E 2070/72, second floor
UNFPA – Rooms VII, Building A, third floor
UNECE – Room IV, Building A, third floor

Friday 6 July

14:00: Joint working group session to discuss the outcome of GSP with the moderators
All groups – Room VII

16:00: Working groups
UNCTAD – Room XV, Building A, second floor
UNDP – Room VII, Building A, third floor
WMO – Room III, Building A, first floor
UNFPA – Rooms VII, Building A, third floor
UNECE – Room IV, Building A, third floor

Tuesday 10 July

15:00: Working Groups (eventually with moderators)
UNCTAD – Room XV, Building A, second floor
UNDP – Room VII, Building A, third floor
WMO – Room III, Building A, first floor
UNFPA – Rooms VII, Building A, third floor
UNECE – Room IV, Building A, third floor

Thursday 12 July

14:00: Final Session of Working Groups with moderators
UNCTAD – Room XV, Building A, second floor
UNECE - Room IV, Building A, third floor
The other 3 groups: UNDP, WMO, UNFPA – visit to CERN

Friday 13 July

9:00. Final session of Working Groups with moderators
UNDP - Room XV, Building A, second floor
WMO - Room IV, Building A, third floor
UNFPA - Rooms VII, Building A, third floor
The other 2 groups: UNECE and UNCTAD – visit to CERN

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMEPSP	Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress
CO2	Carbon dioxide
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
DGFP	Directorate General of Family Planning
DLG	Development-led Globalization
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FP	Family Planning
G77	The Group of 77
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFC	Global Financial Crisis
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
GSP	Graduate Study Programme
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOs	International Organizations
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
IT	Information Technologies
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLDCs	Land Locked Developing Countries
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDG3	Millennium Development Goal Three
MDG4	Millennium Development Goal Four
MDG5	Millennium Development Goal Five
MERIT	Meningitis Environmental Risk Information Technologies
MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MNC	Multinational Corporation
MR	Menstrual Regulation
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIPORT	National Institute of Population Research and Training
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PPME	Programme, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
RIS	Regional Implementation Strategy
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
THE	Total Health Expenditure
UIP	User Interface Platform
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGSP	United Nations Graduate Study Programme
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VTS	Virtual Tahrir Square
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT LED GLOBALISATION AND
ALLEVIATING GLOBAL POVERTY THROUGH A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE
APPROACH TO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

A United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) facilitated analysis on how to address the challenges and opportunities of living in a world of seven billion.

Introduction

“The world’s population has more than tripled since the United Nations was created in 1945... Seven billion people are looking to the UN for solutions that address fundamental issues of security, equity and sustainable development. We must respond with compassion, courage and conviction.”

- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

The following report has been compiled in response to the discussions that evolved from the United Nations 50th Graduate Study Programme, with emphasis on the theme “Opportunities and challenges in a world of seven billion.” It focuses on this topic from the perspective of the UNCTAD, exploring the mandate and strategy of this organization (both of which emerged from the latest meeting in Doha in 2012), providing reactions and interpretations of these in relation to the overall theme of the Graduate Study Programme.

In particular, this report highlights ways through which UNCTAD can move forward within its current strategy and mandate to affect and encourage development-led globalisation (GLD), and alleviate global poverty through a more social inclusive approach to trade and development, finally interpreting how UNCTAD addresses “challenges” and creates “opportunities” in a world of seven billion through policy research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation.

Historical background

Historically, reforms to improve the economic performance of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from the late 1970s followed a neo-classical theme, which became encapsulated in the term 'the Washington Consensus'. These policies involved the liberalization of markets and trade within LDCs to realize a state of market self-regulation. However, the combinations of austerity, liberalization and privatization failed to produce a supply side revolution in regions such as Africa.

Over time, this has undermined the progress of developing nations and incurred significant damage to their national and international economic position. After decades of intensive finance-centred globalization, which have caused a myriad of global crisis' and expansions, the overall impacts of these strategies encouraging economic growth, social investment and income equality remained deceiving.

With the implementation of the neo-classical policies of the Washington Consensus, there was an erosion of the role of the State, however UNCTAD has placed increasing emphasis on the state as a primary actor in enabling the formulation of trade and development strategies, and the motivation of UNCTAD is to now rectify the damages incurred through this financial approach to globalization.

Introducing development-led globalisation

A combination of global economic fragility and prosperity over the last decade has made it difficult to build understanding and consensus around correct approaches to sustainable development. Importantly, this uncertainty has led to a realization of the need to adopt multi-dimensional considerations of the global economic environment. That is, economic and trade policies now need to reflect cultural, social and political shifts, not just shifts in the market.

This need for diversification within discussions of international trade and economic development is in large part caused by a sharp rise in the global population to seven billion, and this figure is estimated to rise again to nine billion by 2050. Challenges facing UNCTAD are also increasing accordingly. Navigating through such complexities will be the priority of UNCTAD as it attempts to achieve its goals over the next four years in the lead up to UNCTAD XIV.

Accordingly, UNCTAD is set to prioritize the consideration of the LDCs and focus their research and support on the promotion of their growth and development. UNCTAD believes that encouraging the progress of LDCs is essential to overcoming one of the major challenges of the world of seven billion - extreme poverty.

In fact, the alleviation of poverty would not only substantially improve the position of LDCs and communities, but would also empower youth to realize their full potential – a factor explored in greater depth in the final stages of this report. Therefore, UNCTAD is set to embark on a strategy that will see a shift in approaches to international economics and trade – one that is more inclusive and aware of the interests of developing countries.

UNCTAD mandate

From 21–26 April 2012, the 13th UNCTAD Conference was undertaken in Doha, Qatar. At the core of the conference for the UNCTAD delegate was the consideration of the main theme: “Development-centred globalization: towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development.” UNCTAD have responded to the calls to improve the economic capacity of developing countries, emphasizing in their latest conference and mandate that they will aim to shift the debates about financial growth into a new, development-centred approach over the next four years.

First, the leaders have agreed that inclusive and sustainable economic growth and socio-economic development requires the strengthening and activation of economic markets across countries at all stages of development. This means that multilateral trading system must remain open, regulated, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive, while still taking advantage of opportunities for reform and improvement that will further contribute to achieving concrete development-based goals.

Second, all forms of cooperation and partnerships in the area of trade and development need to be enhanced and strengthened. For instance, widening the scope of participation for Southern countries in international trade (especially in the area of goods and services distribution), would invariably build productive capacities, link production processes across borders, disseminate know-how and promote structural transformation.

Third, UNCTAD highlighted a need to encourage national political stability worldwide, believing that the pursuit of good-governance and greater internal and external transparency will translate into greater international security and cooperation amongst developing and developed nations.

Fourth, an emphasis was placed on developing and strengthening technology and innovation capacity, in conjunction with effective information and communications technology. Physical and soft infrastructure (including transport and trade logistics) are particularly important to facilitating production and trade, and to attracting investment in LDCs.

Fifth, considerations of global environmental issues were also at the forefront of conversations in Doha, with UNCTAD concerned with building the capacity of states to be able to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change. Another key issue for UNCTAD XIII centred on issues of food and water security, with discussions punctuated by the achievement of the MDGs to alleviate poverty and rectify global inequality. Particular focus was given to the adverse effects that environmental and climate changes were having on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Last, investments, entrepreneurship and related development policies were highlighted as instrumental in increasing productive capacities in LDCs and fostering sustained economic growth within these nations. UNCTAD subsequently identified a need to focus on promoting competitiveness, the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises and farms and on the empowerment of populations through employment and micro-financing.

Objectives of UNCTAD XIII, according to the Doha Mandate

As a result of these discussions, UNCTAD produced the Doha Mandate – a document built on foundations of consensus, outlining the objectives of the organization for the next four years. These objectives, all of which pursue the greater theme of ‘promoting inclusive development through development-led globalisation’, are articulated within the document according to four sub-themes:

1. Enhance the enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development

Key considerations in achieving this objective include – making concentrated efforts to strengthen and improve the functioning of the global economy to better prevent financial and economic shocks, effectively promote inclusive development through sound research and policy, broadening the basis of growth so that more people can benefit from and contribute to growth, ensuring that the multilateral trading system remains open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based so that the basis of growth can be broadened.

Other key areas for inclusion and consideration are adequate regulation and supervision of financial markets and responsible sovereign lending. Issues to address for achieving sub-theme 1 include that non-tariff measures and barriers should be reduced. Furthermore, the volatility of commodity prices remains a challenge to commodity-importing and –exporting developing countries.

2. Strengthen all forms of cooperation and partnership for trade and development including north-south, south-south, and triangular cooperation

This theme for discussion focuses on regional cooperation which can support national development strategies, reduce external vulnerabilities and the global economic governance system, as well as South-South cooperation for developing countries to expand their growth and increase the efficiency and quality of international cooperation.

Key considerations in achieving this objective include - establishing policies to enhance regional cooperation (which in turn enhances inclusive and sustainable growth and development), facilitate Aid for Trade initiatives (such as mainstreaming trade), implement of duty-free quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all LDCs, increase understanding about how these policies will benefit countries achieve MDGs, and the provision of effective development cooperation and finance (including official development assistance) by developed nations to assist developing countries’ efforts in moving to a position where they can mobilize their own resources for sustainable development.

3. Address persistent and emerging development challenges as related to their implications for trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, investment, technology, and sustainable development

This theme has been deployed as a part of UNCTAD’s mandate to address the present challenges, and those that could arrive in the future, which act as barriers in the

progression of development, especially in the case of LDCs. This theme includes a fundamental shift towards endogenous growth within countries, overcoming structural barriers to enable the nurturing of trade between regional LDCs, such as improving containerised transport links, and facilitating dialogue between LDCs in the wider environment.

The key considerations in achieving this objective include focusing on the endogenous growth of LDCs to add value to the labour force. To compliment growth initiatives there needs to be research into methods that could be used to provide a buffer to external, and an import issue is that there cannot be a one fits all development policy. Research must be undertaken to tailor development approaches to each individual context.

4. Promote investment, trade, entrepreneurship, and related development policies to foster sustained economic growth for sustainable and inclusive development

All developing countries can benefit through world trade, assisting in the eradication of poverty. However to provide the environment for trade to assist development there needs to be a focus on building productive capacity, and a focus on providing the stable context for the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI).

The key considerations in achieving this objective include: shifting focus away from primary industries. There needs to be the investment in the skill set, the education and the technology contact of the work force to provide the platform for economy diversification to reduce LDCs exposure to commodity dependence, and the commodity shocks in the external environment that could hinder LDC development.

Strategy

The strategy that underpins UNCTAD's mandate and direction for the next four years, to stimulate development in LDCs to assist in the alleviation of poverty, encompasses placing emphasis on endogenous growth. Under the premise of endogenous growth technological change is the driving force for growth, and this technological change is determined by actions within a country, essentially the investment and improvement in knowledge and education which do not incur diminishing returns. Therefore, the combination of bottom up education with focused improvement of skills sets in the workplace adds value to human capital which provides the catalyst for growth within an economy.

To ensure a trickle-down effect from the economic growth to development, equality and the alleviation of poverty, social structures and institutions must be developed and reinforced within LDCs. Democratic governance, investment in a welfare state, legally upholding property rights and the introduction of progressive tax systems can provide the basis for countries becoming more self-sufficient, and resilient to shocks in the external environment.

The improvements in education and the investment in social structures and institutions can provide a suitable and secure environment to attract FDI. This can allow for LDCs to develop away from reliance on primary manufacture and commodity production to adding value to products and the inclusion of more parts of the supply chain within LDCs before exporting goods. FDI can additionally provide for the diffusion of new innovations and ideas into countries, therefore enhancing the growth process further.

Activities

In order to effectively promote poverty alleviation and encourage a shift from financial driven to development-led globalisation, all activities pursued by UNCTAD to this affect should be applied through the existing three pillars of the organization:

1. Building consensus
2. Policy research and analysis
3. Technical cooperation

In accordance with these three pillars, the strategy outlined above, and the objectives outlined in the mandate of UNCTAD, it is recommended that the following activities should be pursued to help encourage DLG.

1. Consensus building

In pursuit of the objectives of the organization, UNCTAD should undertake to facilitate international, cross-cultural, and multi-disciplinary communication. This communication is vital in bringing actors together in order to induce consensus building on how to achieve the MDGs, development of LDCs and the alleviation of poverty. UNCTAD should seek to build upon the strategy to development when consensus forming with the international community, especially noting the importance of the role of multigenerational participation in inclusive development, particularly the empowerment of young people.

UNCTAD should not only act to find consensus on development within the international community, but should also to find a consensus with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other limbs of the United Nations body to assist in development and the alleviation of poverty. This will also attempt to avoid policies being implemented which could prove detrimental to the success of the strategy UNCTAD are following.

2. Research and analysis

Research and analysis can be undertaken by UNCTAD to provide not only information and knowledge to best shape its strategy and approach, but also to provide the authorities to build and shape consensus within the international community on approaches to trade and development. This pillar of the organization is vital in providing the informational resource to overcoming challenges and taking advantage of opportunities. Particularly relevant issues at this time are the analysis and researching of best practices for all forms of cooperation, including south-south cooperation and sub-regional trade arrangements, and approaches to maximizing the Aid for Trade Initiative.

3. Technical cooperation

Under this pillar UNCTAD can facilitate the implementation of the strategy to development by encouraging information diffusion, especially into LDCs. This can be through distribution of its research findings, and by encouraging and facilitating the cooperation between LDCs. UNCTAD should also continue to support south-south trade and the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP). Furthermore UNCTAD should promote triangular cooperation, promoting global trade and development.

Implementation

UNCTAD is orientated around a four year cycle, with the main peak of activity being the convening of the UNCTAD Conference every four years. Therefore, the objectives and actions outlined in this report should be reflective of this structure and considered over the next four years in the lead up to the next conference in 2016.

Conveniently, this report identifies four core objectives to be achieved within this time frame. Therefore, it is recommended that UNCTAD assign an objective to each year to ensure that each issue is given sufficient, independent and worthwhile consideration. By separating the objectives and punctuating each year with different goal, UNCTAD is more likely to progress towards achieving successful outcomes based on an organised, thorough and valuable investigation.

Timeline for implementation

Year	Theme of discussion, relating to the objectives of UNCTAD
2012	Enhance the enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development
2013	Strengthen all forms of cooperation and partnership for trade and development including north-south, south-south, and triangular cooperation
2014	Address persistent and emerging development challenges as related to their implications for trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, investment, technology, and sustainable development
2015	Promote investment, trade, entrepreneurship, and related development policies to foster sustained economic growth for sustainable and inclusive development
2016	UNCTAD Conference XIV

Resources

The following resources have been identified as necessary to furthering and achieving the objectives and actions of this report, and to help UNCTAD achieve its overall goals for inclusive development:

1. Internal resources

UNCTAD must apply financial support and commitment, in researched and structured budgets, to the proposals of this work programme. Researched and structured approaches must also be applied to the division of labour within the UNCTAD organization. Ensuring strong inter-departmental communication channels are present, and there is an appropriate management structure in place to ensure of effective use of UNCTAD resources.

The administrative, technological and research tools of UNCTAD should be applied to enable consensus building within the UNCTAD organization itself, and to provide academic and research sources to further achieve the actions as outlined in this work programme.

2. External resources

UNCTAD will need to play a role mobilizing external resources to achieve the strategy and the goals of development and poverty alleviation in a world of seven billion. The resource of finance will be key for this, and financial investment from member nations of UNCTAD needs to be directed towards LDCs and SIDS. Financial contributions from private sector actors to assist development also need to be harnessed, and UNCTAD will have a role in assisting in the facilitation of this.

Developing strong links with the administrations of other UN bodies and international organizations, such as the World Bank, can provide opportunities to have linked research programmes. Through improving information transfer, especially into LDCs, and building consensus on development policies within the international community, this collaboration and investment in research programmes can be a fundamental tool for UNCTAD in achieving its development goals.

The provision of technical support from external experts is also particularly important as UNCTAD seeks to encourage the infrastructure development of LDCs, for example in increasing the proliferation of the internet in LDCs. Directing technological and informational resources to LDCs, provided through investment and contributions from developed nations, can assist in achieving the strategy to development in these countries and UNCTAD's objectives.

Expected outcomes

A shift from financial driven globalization to DLG is the main priority of UNCTAD based on interpretations of the Doha Mandate. Therefore, this should be the main outcome of the actions implemented through this work programme. Based on this assumption, we expect the following results to emerge from this work programme, contributing to the reduction of global poverty.

1. The shift to DLG, inclusive development and sustainable growth, especially in LDCs

Following the Doha conference, and the acceptance of UNCTAD's proposed mandate, the focus for development will be on the reduction of poverty and improving global equality. UNCTAD will undertake to bring about this shift away finance driven globalization development through research and analysis, and establishing a more inclusive platform for communication and consensus building between all members of UNCTAD.

2. Improved global financial management

Aspiring to improve global financial management, and establishing rules and regulations in the global financial market can assist in the development through improving economic stability and strengthening LDCs' economies. Reducing the emphasis on financial markets and an integrated approach, can make LDCs more robust against the damaging fluctuations financial markets can induce. Promoting global cooperation and finding a consensus on the regulation of global financial markets can provide effective approaches to the issue of unfettered, liberalized financial markets and the consequences this can have for the LDCs.

3. Sustainable development

A core characteristic of development that UNCTAD should be encouraging, and facilitating where possible, through the Doha mandate, is the principle of sustainability. LDCs can achieve greater financial independence, and less dependence on developed countries, as a result of greater market equality and reduction of trade barriers. This financial independence will translate into more suitable growth for LDCs.

Support of, and improvements to the distribution of goods and services produced by LDCs will improve their national capacity and lead to sustainable economic outcomes. Empowerment of global populations will also encourage sustainability for LDCs through active participation and contribution from these populations. The empowerment of young people is especially relevant as this will ensure inclusive approaches continue (or are 'sustained') in future generations and policies.

4. Improved political and social stability

Improving the political and social stability within LDCs can have the effect of strengthening their economies and assisting in their continued development, providing the environment where technological progress can be best undertaken. Working towards greater national and international political transparency can have the effect of

reducing corruption and restoring nation integrity, while improving social cohesion internally can result in greater cohesion internationally.

Further advantages of improving political and social stability are greater food and water security which will have a positive affect for inclusive development. Social and political improvements in LDCs can reduce global inequalities and can improve conditions for establishing consensus in the international environment and promote global cooperation. Greater awareness and understanding of DLG achieved through equal emphasis on research and analysis, and education and knowledge-sharing

There must be greater engagement with research, analysis and literature that promote the move towards DLG to improve understanding of this approach to development. Improving knowledge and understanding of this approach will allow for wider acceptance and the strengthening UNCTAD's abilities to achieve consensus amongst member nations to undertake development led globalization.

Investment into research and analysis of development led globalization will provide further opportunities for LDCs to voice their opinions and positions in global economic development discussions. This greater diversity in the perspectives and opinions can result in fairer policies and outcomes for LDCs.

5. Reduction in global poverty and inequality and improved social cohesion

The MDGs articulated the goals of the measurable reduction in those living below the poverty line. There must be increased social communication and consensus building in approaches to lifting out of poverty those inflicted by it. Increased social and political stability will provide the platform for this to occur, with development programmes assisting further.

Benchmarks

Qualitative

- Increased global social, political and economical equality
- Greater visible equality in north-south, south-south, and triangular partnerships and cooperation
- Greater transparency within international financial and commodity markets
- Reduced corruption and greater transparency within national governments and institutions, leading to an increase in global social stability

Quantitative

- Rise in the average ratio of export in comparison to GDP, especially in LDCs (this suggests increase in national wealth)
- Rise in foreign investment, especially within LDCs
- Rise in number of south-to-south partnerships or corporations
- Rise in number of south-north partnerships
- Rise in number of cooperative agreements between the members of UNCTAD
- Measurably contributing to the success of the MDGs
- Measurable reduction in poverty, especially in LDCs and Africa

- Reduction in trade barriers, especially within south-north partnerships
- Reduction in unemployment, especially amongst youth
- Increase in small and medium enterprise, especially in LDCs (suggesting increase in national innovation and productivity)

Obstacles

The following obstacles facing UNCTAD as it works towards a more inclusive approach to development have been identified:

1. The global financial crisis

The world economy is still fragile and recovery from the global financial crisis (GFC) is ongoing. For instance, the sovereign debt crisis in Europe is resonating across global financial markets and is impacting global trade. High costs of living, interest rates, and generally slower rate of GDP growth globally, remain major obstacles in many countries post-GFC. The GFC remains a significant barrier to the development of LDCs.

2. Food, water and energy security

There is continued shortage of supply of food, water and energy to many parts of the world. What's more, many LDCs still have limited access to the technological advancement that has enabled more efficient farming, water filtration and more efficient use of energy. Natural disasters and climate change have added further to the addressing the challenges of food, water and energy security. Ensuring access to these resources remains an ongoing difficulty when trying to address poverty in LDCs.

3. Vulnerable, unstable and corrupt governance

Vulnerable governance structures and subsequent internal conflicts are undermining the capacity of certain LDCs to encourage national development. These political instabilities impede stable economic growth. Namely, inadequate government support means there is inadequate welfare for those who need it most, increasing the severity of poverty and social inequality.

Weak governments cannot provide the support necessary to create domestic cohesion and stability that is required for long-term, inclusive development. Perpetuating this problem is the fact that corrupt states also lack international recognition and trust, furthering undermining their ability to attract foreign investment and the international support needed to achieve productive economic growth.

4. Imbalanced, unequal social structures

Unequal distribution of income and lack of welfare systems are major obstacles to the alleviation of poverty – in fact, they perpetuate the issue. Resource distribution favouring the upper – middle class in LDCs intensifies inequality in income, education and opportunity. This also causes severe civil instability and unrest, disempowers youth and undermines the reputation of national governments to act as 'representatives' of their constituent.

5. Neoliberal international policies

As highlighted through this report, such policies have proven to significantly hinder the growth and development of LDCs. Despite this, the systems supporting this policy remain in place, posing significant obstacles to the progression of a more inclusive approach to development.

6. Regulating multinational corporations (MNCs)

While the activities of multinational corporations are important source of investment and trade, their independence and power have made it difficult to navigate and change global economic situations.

7. Accessibility

Despite the global trend of reduced transportation and communication costs, Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) continue to have weak logistical capacities and pay high transport and transit costs. Inadequate infrastructure and telecommunication remain obstacles for many LDC. Also, tough immigration laws in developed countries make it very difficult for members of LDCs to travel and seek better opportunities in other countries.

8. Increasing heterogeneity between developing countries

Due to varying stages of development, now there can be discrepancies on issues that concern each developing country. This has made it harder to reach consensus on key issues within the G77 and could potentially impede South-South solidarity.

Proposed partnerships

In pursuit of the aims and outcomes of UNCTAD as outlined in the Doha Mandate and throughout this report, the organization will be expected to partner and collaborate with several organizations in the following areas:

1. UNCTAD Member national governments

The partnership with states (especially LDCs) is key to the successful integration of UNCTAD's work into national policies. Partnership with governments will be crucial in ensuring greater transparency and political stability, and is also essential in pursuing global trade agreements, alleviating trade barriers and reducing the restrictions currently undermining the productive capacities of the most vulnerable nations.

2. Regional organizations

Partnership with regional organizations in areas such as Africa, Asia and Latin America allows UNCTAD to better address the challenges and opportunities of developing states and economies in transition. Namely, regional cooperation contributes to improved market access for states through regional trade arrangements and promotes greater international trading efficiency.

3. Other UN divisions, programmes and departments

UNCTAD stands to benefit significantly from partnership with other United Nations organizations, providing opportunities for the exchange of information, resources and technical support. Such partnerships are necessary for effective coordination of activities, especially within LDCs where other organizations and United Nations projects are in operation.

4. Other international economic organizations

Partnership and cooperation with other internationally invested financial organizations will ensure UNCTAD's effective operation within this environment. Specifically, partnership with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, and other relevant partners will assist UNCTAD's work in promoting a better multilateral trading system and encourage development-led globalisation.

5. Experts, academics, researchers and tertiary institutions

Partnership with research and academic institutions will provide UNCTAD with capacity in the member states, encouraging policymaking that is reflective of national understanding and interests. UNCTAD should also seek partnership with tertiary institutions globally to encourage the involvement and empowerment of young people

6. Technical experts

As UNCTAD seeks to encourage technical cooperation it must seek the skills and expert knowledge of various technical experts in order to successfully carry out its work, for example UNEP.

7. Other private and corporate partnerships

Partnership with various stakeholders from the private sector will help UNCTAD remain financial viable and their work remains visible in important corporate networks.

Beyond UNCTAD XIII

As highlighted by the UNCTAD Secretary-General, “society’s moral well-being depends on its economic well-being and vice versa.” This link has also been made by Joseph Stiglitz, who argues for a rejuvenated approach to measuring economic growth and global development - one that goes beyond traditional interpretations of economics and considers the importance of community well-being in informing the creation of contemporary development policy.

According to Stiglitz’s findings, there are limitations in our capacity to gain accurate indications of social progress from traditional methodology such as measurements of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Accordingly, the aim of the commission was to investigate the current gaps in economic policy and measurement, and to then consider what alternative information would be required to ensure a full and accurate understanding of development to guarantee effective social progress into the future.

As the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (CMEPSP) rightly point out, in the end, ‘what we measure affects what we do; and if our measurements are flawed, decisions may be distorted.’ Therefore, creating policy based on distorted or inaccurate analysis of current environments will weaken future policy aiming to affect social progress and development. That is, the gaps that have been identified in traditional forms of measuring and understanding economic growth are potentially undermining efforts to further encourage sustainable growth, equality, prosperity and development, as the statistical analysis upon which such efforts are benchmarked are losing relevance and accuracy in today’s diversified market.

Therefore, UNCTAD must react, diversifying its methodology and policies to respond to not only financial and economic changes, but also to the needs of society in general. Failure to consider external social factors (such as employment, food security, or environmental changes) when looking to improve or impact on the global economic environment means that the policy research and action itself is neither inclusive, relevant, nor socially sustainable.

Specifically, three core social issues that will potentially affect UNCTAD as it pursues its goals and objectives beyond UNCTAD XIII have been identified - youth empowerment, technology, and education. Prioritising the consideration of these three perspectives will help UNCTAD diversify their approach to achieving inclusive globalisation and greater global equality in accordance with contemporary social progress indicators.

Youth empowerment

“The passing of the seven billion [population] threshold is not about one individual or even one generation. It is a wakeup call to confront global poverty and inequality, and a call to action to help empower young people to realize their full potential.”

- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

As the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has reiterated, “most people in most countries want similar things – a decent job, a secure home, a safe environment, a better future for their children.” But what about the children or youth of today? Today’s population of seven billion has the highest population of young people in history – there are 1.8 billion

people between the ages of 10 to 24 years old. High levels of unemployment and significant economic uncertainty are confronting these young populations, and this is having a negative impact on their overall engagement with society, as well as their individual well being.

Such issues have recently resulted in peaks of frustration, leading to outbreaks of protests and violence amongst young people – the most recent and confronting example being the Arab Spring uprising in 2010. This reaction resonated across the globe, proving that the absence of ‘well being’ and support within areas of the population can have alarming, violent repercussions on the stability of society overall.

However, the extent of the impact of actions such as this should come as no surprise considering the essential role young populations play in the development of nations – they are, literally and effectively, ‘the future’. As a result, an unproductive, disempowered young population will undermine and prohibit future social progress across all areas of development, and this will in turn limit UNCTAD’s efforts to initiate a productive, equal and empowered future driven by DLG.

The role of young people needs to be a priority of UNCTAD. Growing displacement and unemployment affecting young people should be a primary concern of discussions, research and international consensus building. UNCTAD should work with member nations to help create certain, productive futures for their young populations. UNCTAD should also ensure that young people themselves are at the crux of these discussion – just like LDCs need to be at the forefront of discussions concerning their development, young people need to actively participate in the conversations and investigations that concern their future role in UNCTAD’s inclusive development strategy.

One way this can be achieved by providing a forum for youth discussion and collaboration, reflective of the style that already governs UNCTAD. Such a forum would allow for the greater education of young people with regard to UNCTAD, its mandate and its visions for the future, increasing their potential to emerge as future leaders in this area. It would also provide young people with the opportunity to actively participate in the collaborative, research and analytical processes that govern UNCTAD. This level of involvement would not only empower young people, but would allow UNCTAD to diversify its internal, organizational approaches and perspectives, making for a more informed, inclusive approach to development policy.

Ultimately, considering and involving young people in UNCTAD’s approach to DLG is essential to achieving sustainable, inclusive development, reducing poverty, and empowering youth to actively participate in their future beyond UNCTAD XIII.

Technology

As stated by the UNCTAD Secretary-General, ‘technological change is key to building virtuous circle of productivity growth, structural transformation, rising living standards, and increasing investment in knowledge production.’ In fact, it is a self-determined role of the Science, Innovation and Technology Division of UNCTAD to provide leadership, innovation and progress in the availability and use of technology in the developing world, particularly in the LDCs.

This is seen as a crucial component of their organizational strategy to improving development and promoting economic equality across the world. The growing reliance on technology in today's society is further recognised by the CMEPSP, who state that – “in the “information society”, access to data, including statistical data, is much easier. More and more people look at statistics to be better informed or to make decisions.”

To respond to the growing demand for information, the supply of statistics has also increased considerably, covering new domains and phenomena. UNCTAD has recognised and responded to this, with extensive online information and statistics available through their various databases and websites.

However, access to the benefits technology offers remains a crucial factor hindering development in many LDCs. Encouraging and enabling universal access to online tools, resources, and information (particularly in LDCs) is paramount to ensuring equal access to education and resources. Global internet access is the only way to ensure the global transition to the use of online communication and resources within areas of trade and development will benefit the entire ‘market’ – true attempts to eradicate poverty and increase equality within this online domain can only be made if emphasis is placed on ensuring universal access to online services. Perhaps this is an MDG for the future?

Regardless, as highlighted in the 2012 Secretary-General's Report, the expansion of online resources to LDCs cannot be spontaneous – the growth of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) requires considerable investment and time to germinate within LDCs to ensure its relevance within existing social and cultural structures. However, more assertive action needs to be taken, and UNCTAD needs to lead this by placing a greater emphasis on the implementation of ICT policy that encourages the exchange of information and resources between developing and developed countries.

UNCTAD should also encourage developed countries to invest in the creation of infrastructure that will see LDCs gain greater access to internet resources. Facilitating such partnerships will be integral to improving global equality and reducing poverty, especially considering the rapidly increasing emphasis on ICTs in global partnerships, trade and communication. The sharing of information and resources is key to ensuring LDCs can begin to share the benefits technology has brought developed nations, and UNCTAD should be at the forefront of these collaborations.

Overall, prioritising and facilitating technological progress in LDCs should be a primary ambition of UNCTAD as it seeks to achieve inclusive, social conscious development beyond UNCTAD XIII.

Education

The underlying theme across all recommendations for UNCTAD into the future is education – it aligns not only with their organisational strategy and action plan, but is also a crucial consideration in their objectives for the future. For instance, educating LDCs with regard to ITCs is key to ensuring fairer understanding and access to internet and technology resources, which will ultimately help to increase development and encourage social progress. Therefore, education will be a predominant concern of UNCTAD as it looks beyond the thirteenth session of the conference.

Specifically, considering the move to transition into a more inclusive DLG, UNCTAD should begin to encourage a reflection of this transition in academic circles. That is, the discourse surrounding globalisation (particularly that taught in tertiary institutions to higher education students) needs to be altered to reflect this new direction. Ensuring that students and academics understand why this direction needs to be taken is key to ensuring its ultimate success.

The more people who are aware of the need to move towards a more socially progressive and conscious strategy for development, the more rapidly UNCTAD can help the world transition into a more productive social order – one that emphasises progress, social well being and global equality. Furthermore, this approach aligns well with previous recommendations made within this report concerning youth empowerment, with education providing increased opportunities to ensure a stable, productive and informed young population in the future.

Therefore, UNCTAD should directly invest in ensuring that students of social sciences are fully informed about the past, present and future strategies for economical development so that they can. Ultimately, this will resonate beyond the class room and into various industries, professions and networks. This pollination of ideas will assist UNCTAD as it allows for DLG to emerge as a generational ideology driven by an informed and empowered population of young people, extremely capable of actively participating in the facilitation of social progress in accordance with the vision for future growth and development.

Specifically, resources should be distributed to teachers, academics and institutions, with a focus on interactive, online materials to ensure it remains relevant for young people. A link between the youth forum (as per the suggestion above) should also be encouraged, providing a further platform for engagement with these ideas and strategies.

Overall, by encouraging engagement with these principles on the tertiary level, UNCTAD will be sure to enhance its impact and improve its capacity to encourage a prosperous and progressive future for development.

Evaluation

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD made several conclusions in his report, reacting to the discussion of UNCTAD XIII. They were as follows:

1. Financial led globalisation is undermining the potential to achieve equal, inclusive development, especially in LDCs
2. Encouraging a stable state is key in the construction and managing of an inclusive economy.
3. Considerations of global well-being are essential in the creation of effective, inclusive policy.
4. Alternative approaches are needed to help stabilize the global economy post-GFC, and to ensuring future stability and resilience
5. Policy makers have responsibilities to ensure the promotion of a long-term stability, favouring short-term gain for developing countries (not developed nations)

6. There is no “one-size-fits-all” policy for the diverse states and economies around the world. On the contrary, there is a need to focus on specific needs for each region.

Today, the states of the international community are faced with many dilemmas wide-ranging challenges. Food and water insecurity, the rising energy prices, the climate change, disrespect for human rights and gender inequality are only some areas that have to be addressed in a new global deal.

Subsequently, UNCTAD decided to sensitize the capacity of its institutional framework for economic governance, the quality of development, the sustainability of consumption of global resources and the capacity for production and stewardship of global public goods. UNCTAD remains a focal instrument of the United Nations to reduce divisions caused by finance-led globalization and prevent financial risks and consequences in the future.

The recommendations made in this work programme reflect and support the conclusions of the Secretary-General and UNCTAD - encouraging a shift to DLG through the adoption of inclusive economic policy and trade partnerships with the ultimate aim of alleviation of poverty and ensuring a stable, prosperous, equal ‘future for humanity’.

“We all have a stake in the future of humanity. Every individual, every government, every business is more interconnected and interdependent than ever, so whatever each of us does now will matter long into the future. Together we can change and improve the world.”

- United Nations Population Fund Executive Director, Babatunde Osotimehin

References

The Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (CMEPSP), Report by The Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr/documents/rapport_anglais.pdf lasted accessed 1/08/2012

Grossman, G & Helpman, E. (1990), Trade, Innovation and Growth. American Economic Review (May), As Cited in Snowdon, B. Vane, H.(2006) Modern Macroeconomics. Edward Elgar Publishing (USA)

Lin, JY. Liu, M. (2003) Development Strategy, Viability and Challenges of Development in Lagging Regions. 15th World Bank Conference on Development Economics, 2003

Panitchpakdi, Supachai (2011), Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD XIII, United Nations, May 2012

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XII (2008), UNCTAD Accra Accord, United Nations, May 2008, P.51

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development XIII (2012), Doha Mandate, United Nations, May, 2012

United Nations (2007), Press Release: World Population Will Increase by 2.5 Billion by 2050, United Nations, March 2007

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Annual Report 2011, United Nations, May 2012

Acknowledgments

The contributors to this report would like to thank UNCTAD for their cooperation and provision of resources, with special mention to moderator, Shigehisa Kasahara. We would also like to thank the UNGSP for their support and assistance, and to the other members of the UNGSP for their support and insights throughout the two week programme.

TAKING TAHRIR SQUARE TO CYBERSPACE

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated initiative to address the challenges and opportunities of living in a world of seven billion.

Background and analysis of the current Egyptian situation:

1. Democratic gains

Over the last few decades, Egypt has made considerable progress in terms of development and democracy. The Egyptian Revolution was a turning point showing that millions of Egyptians were ready to assert their rights. Against this background, we identify two threshold moments: the Egyptian Revolution and the June 2012 Elections. The grievances that led to the revolution which began on 25 January 2011 were chiefly political. However, old economic grievances played a role as well.

Politically, the grievances focused on the rigged parliamentary elections of 2010, the emergency repressive measures that lasted for decades, and the absolute absence of freedom of speech. Furthermore, Egyptians blamed their government for the high rate of poverty, youth unemployment, corruption, illiteracy, and the deep divisions between rich and poor.

Following 18 days of popular protests and a government crackdown that caused more than 800 deaths, former President Hosni Mubarak was forced to resign on February 11, 2011 after nearly 30 years in power. A military council that took over after Mubarak's ousting was initially welcomed. Nevertheless, it soon faced criticism for continuing human rights violations and harassment of activists and nongovernmental organizations, as well as apparent attempts to postpone a transfer to civilian rule.

On 26 June 2012, Dr. Mohamed Morsi became the first civilian president of Egypt following an election that could mark a watershed moment in Egypt's transition to democracy.

2. Challenges to democracy

The elections in Egypt were followed by a fresh political crisis. The country's new president, Mohammed Morsi, is engaged in a power struggle with the military and the outcome is uncertain. The military council still holds considerable power; also, it dissolved the parliament after the Constitutional Court found that some of the Assembly's members had been elected illegally.

To this end, these events were perceived as a silent coup. While some see Morsi as the saviour of democracy in Egypt, others are worried about the prospect of an Islamist dictatorship. Several theorists have highlighted the dichotomy between fundamentalist Islam on one hand and the freedoms demanded by democracy on the other hand; moreover, Morsi's party, the Muslim Brotherhood, initially shunned the election process.

Moreover, history has repeatedly shown that democratic elections are no guarantee of the sustainability of democracy. And, certainly, democracy is still in many senses superficial in the country. As of 2012, this has been highlighted by Freedom House, which does not consider Egypt to be a free country. The ratings show a score of 5.5 for freedom, a score of five for civil liberties and a score of six for political rights. Corruption remains pervasive at all levels of government. Egypt was ranked 112 out of 183 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index. These scores suggest that there are still major challenges to building and strengthening democracy in Egypt.

3. Youth and democracy

The UNDP has already analyzed the opportunities and constraints that face Egypt's sizeable youth population in the 2010 Egypt Human Development Report. The young population in Egypt has been referred to as a 'youth bulge' with 25 per cent of Egyptians between the ages of 18 and 29, and 40 per cent between the ages of 10 and 29.

Egyptian youth is the most crucial factor in paving the way to a greater democratic Egypt. Therefore, it is out of the question that extending democratic gains and deepening democracy in Egypt will not be achieved and ensured without young people embracing its precepts.

4. The internet in Egypt

It is evident that the internet has played a crucial role during the Arab Spring by supporting protestors' cause against undemocratic regimes, not only in Egypt, but also in neighbouring countries. The use of the internet and social media has dramatically increased in recent years. According to estimates in December 2011, there are more than 21 and a half million Facebook users, more than a million Twitter accounts and eight thousand YouTube users in the country.

An important tool used by UNDP has been e-governance, which involves a public investment in information and communication technologies (ICTs) to strengthen governance processes. Access to and usage of ICTs can provide new and innovative communication channels that empower people and give voice to those who previously had none. What is more, it allows them to interact via networks and networking. In Egypt, this has the potential to become an important tool in establishing a new form of political participation, strengthening the process of democratic governance.

Mandate of the UNDP in Egypt

Along with the rest of the UN development system, UNDP is responding to the new needs of Egyptian citizens as they work to build a new Egypt that fulfils their demands for "dignity, freedom, and social justice." Given the nature of the democratic transition and UNDP's mandate, the UNDP's current programme priorities in Egypt are:

1. Supporting expanded and effective political participation.
2. Supporting greater transparency and accountability.
3. Promoting a culture of human rights.
4. Supporting local development, poverty reduction, and social justice.

This being said, there is an opportunity to engage young Egyptians and harness the growth of social media and the proliferation of internet users to help achieve these goals, especially the first three. This will be a particularly effective strategy to deepen the understanding and appreciation of democracy among the large youth population. It will also encourage young people to take part in the decision-making process while holding the government accountable and liable.

Strategy

Our strategy involves the development of a 'Virtual Tahrir Square' (VTS), an internet site that will draw on the iconic status that Tahrir Square already has as a symbol of democracy in Egypt.

In early February 2011, a march was organized on the square aimed at involving a million people. Around five million Egyptians took to the streets. As around 40 million people, or roughly half the population, are eligible to vote, if even a fraction of these people visit the site, it will be a vibrant tool to encourage democratic debate and citizens' involvement in the government.

Furthermore, it has been said before that Egyptians will remember the road to Tahrir Square, which expresses the idea that the demonstrations will have a lasting impact on political life. The square will therefore be a powerful reminder of the gains that have already been made; it will also promote them by providing a platform for Egyptians to continue to rally around the cause of democracy. The importance and significance of such a project will enforce its success in Egypt.

Increasingly, theorists are looking at how political marketing can be improved by consumer marketing; this idea involves using marketing tools to make democracy appealing and attractive. It is evident that democracy can't be bought. Nevertheless, given Egypt's history, it's something that needs to be 'bought into', especially when it was the Egyptian populace who took the initiative on the path to democracy.

The rules of engagement in themselves will deepen the understanding of democracy and strengthen human rights. The administration of the site will eschew any discrimination based on gender, religion, particular social group or political affiliation. Moreover, any form of hate speech will be banned.

The site will be coordinated by the UNDP and will involve various players. However, the activity of the site, the engagement, and the atmosphere of Tahrir Square itself will be determined by Egyptians and will draw on the achievements and the initiative that the population has already shown.

Plan of action

Objectives

- To promote and market democracy itself and deepen its roots in Egypt by encouraging debate and participation in a safe and trustworthy space, where everyone can express their opinion.
- To allow individuals as well as political parties and civil society players to disseminate information and documents.
- To create a transparent and accountable government administration by providing a channel for interaction across the three crucial pillars in society: government, citizens, and businesses.
- Citizens will be encouraged to comment on the Government's policies and actions. Consequently, they could gain influence in the decision-making process. People will be appealed to the idea of playing a proactive role in policy making and the development of the public sector.
- The site will not necessarily encourage new users, but will be a special place for millions of Egyptians who are already using the Internet and social media to be part of the political process – especially women who may face exclusionary practices in every-day life. As anonymous participants, they will be able to exercise their democratic rights and assert their opinions as freely as men.

Activities

The UNDP will engage Egyptian web design agencies and the major web players to become involved in the development of the site. Their involvement will enhance their own prestige, while keeping development costs down. The final product will, therefore, be the result of a creative process; it will be as pioneering and innovative as possible. The creative brief will include the following:

1. **Fundamental rules and rights**
The rules of engagement will uphold the dignity and the right of each visitor to be heard. Nevertheless, users who engage in hate speech or highly prejudicial speech can be blocked (although rigorous debate will be encouraged).
2. **Visual appeal**
The site should have a compelling and user-friendly interface with the look and feel of a console game to appeal to young Egyptians who are increasingly exposed to cutting edge technology.
3. **Individual**
They should be able to visit the site anonymously, knowing that their identity, sex, and details will be kept secret. They will, however, be encouraged to give their political affiliation to help users find like-minded visitors or open up debate with people with different perspectives.
4. **Political parties and other groups**
They will also be given a place on the square, e.g. a virtual building, where they can hand out information such as their manifestos, their activities, as well as registration documents. The ruling party itself will be invited to attend, but it will

not have any control over the content or the administration of the site. The vast array of civil society organizations will also be invited to attend as long as they respect the rules of engagement on the Square.

General activities

1. The site will be a tool to market democracy itself with catchy banners and frequent campaigns. Links to social media such as twitter, Facebook, and email facilities will be provided so that users can download information, help to spread the word and stimulate debate beyond the Square.
2. There will also be a section where users can participate in polls, for example by voting for or against certain issues, or rating politicians or parties.
3. The results of the polls will provide stimulus interest and give users a greater understanding of the leanings of their fellow Egyptians.

Finally the UNDP or civil society partners will call for volunteers, perhaps students, to administer the site and ensure that the rules of engagement are adhered to. It is important that they are politically neutral or are at least willing to pledge to allow free movement and free engagement on the square, without pushing any agenda.

Expected results

- The Square will be a huge success if it attracts five percent of Egypt's voting population (around two million people), primarily between the ages of 15 and 64, by the end of the first year - with a reasonable representation of both genders and Egypt's different geographical regions.
- After a year, a poll will be held to gauge the awareness of Egyptians about the square and their perceptions. The strategy should be revised if the Square is not viewed as an authentic, trusted place for neutral engagement.

Benchmarks

There is an example of a virtual square that is doing well, conceptualized by a Stanford MBA student allowing students across North America to engage with their teachers and classmates in a non-threatening environment; what is interesting is the fact that some are using it for up to four hours a day.

However, ultimately the VTS is a unique and novel concept that cannot be compared to any other sites. Activity on the site and the outcome of its development will be unpredictable... just like democracy itself.

Funding through partnerships

The UNDP will provide 30 per cent of the VTS project's funds, while the remainder will be financed through partnerships with the private sector, NGOs such as USAID and possibly other arms of the UN including UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women could also be approached.

We will approach the mammoth IT firms that have a presence in Egypt, such as Google and Microsoft. They may be interested in being associated with an innovative project to

enhance democracy. Instead of contributing money, these companies and web design and development agencies may be willing to provide expertise and resources. We will also ask media companies to donate advertising space to raise initial awareness around the Square.

The Egyptian government may decide to contribute, but the donation should be kept to a fraction of the funding, and will be accepted only with the condition of not having control over the site nor censoring or trying to track down users.

To ensure that the VTS is launched on time, and that there is funding for staff to support the site for the first year, a budget of USD \$5,550,000,000 (five million, five hundred and fifty thousand dollars) is required. In the long-term, advertising sales will ensure the site is sustainable and able to expand.

Timeline

The VTS project will kick off almost straight away to allow for the actual site to be launched on the 25 January 2014 to coincide with the anniversary of the start of the uprisings in Egypt.

TASK	TIME- PERIOD	BUDGET
Preparation of a full business plan, tailored by an assessment of current conditions in Egypt	August 2012	(Costs to be absorbed by UNDP office in Egypt)
Running of a workshop to announce the project to the Egyptian government, interested corporations, large IT companies and potential donors.	1 to 3 September 2012 in Cairo	\$50 000
Fundraising – including the drafting of partnership proposals to be sent to the relevant stakeholders. Selection of the agencies to design and develop the VTS website.	4 September 2012 to end October 2012	(Costs absorbed by UNDP office in Egypt)
Refinement of the creative brief and development of the VTS in conjunction with partners as well as the web design and development agencies.	November 2012 to November 2013	\$ 3 million
Marketing drive to promote the VTS to the public.	November – December 2013.	\$2 million
Launch	25 January 2014	
Provision and oversight of staff members to support the VTS site.	January 2014 - January 2015	\$400 000
Technical support, maintenance and expansion of the VTS by the web design and development agencies.	January 2014 - January 2015	\$100 000
First assessment of the VTS project.	25 January 2015	
TOTAL		\$5 550 000,00

Obstacles

While there remains a 'digital divide' in Egypt, the VTS project will face some difficulties touching all citizens and interested persons. Therefore, in order for the VTS project to succeed and expand in the long-term, the UNDP needs to continue to work towards a situation where all Egyptians not only have access, but also can effectively make use of the tools and facilities provided by the internet.

In 2005, UNESCO published a report "Towards Knowledge Societies", which analyzed the opportunities emerging from the transformation of information and communication and the challenges in terms of equity and inclusiveness. What is more, it formulated an approach to building societies in which knowledge is the primary resource for individual development, social engagement, and economic growth. This report additionally highlighted the following four principles as key factors for the development of inclusive knowledge societies:

1. Freedom of expression and right to information, the right to political participation, freedom of association and political bargain, the right to privacy and data protection and the right to non-discrimination.
2. Universal access to information and knowledge
3. Respect for cultural and linguistic diversity
4. Quality education for all

The findings of UNESCO's 2003 report "Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace" suggests that language may be another obstacle, unless the site cuts across all of Egypt's dialects. It states the following as requisites to digital inclusion:

- Development of multilingual content and systems
- Facilitating access to networks and service
- Development of public domain content

To overcome these obstacles, the UNDP needs to continue to engage with government authorities to motivate commitments and enhancement of ICT infrastructure in the country. Connectivity, affordability, quality of access and ICT education and training needs to be available across the population and should be spear-headed by regional governments.

In the long-term, the UNDP needs to convince the relevant ministers and lawmakers that respect for fundamental rights in cyberspace needs to be included in legislation. The Egyptian government has resorted to censorship and interference in the past and needs to appreciate that cyber freedom is fundamental to ensure the expansion of the Internet and digital inclusion. In general, democratic freedoms include, among others, the right to information, freedom to hold opinions, freedom to impart information, freedom of the press.

Therefore, restrictions should only be imposed in order to protect rights and freedom of others, national security, public safety, public order, and public health. This also means users must be protected in their privacy when using cyberspace; the integrity of their computer systems must be assured, as the data there stored belongs to the privacy of

the citizen. Furthermore, the government of Egypt should commit itself to being transparent over the web and providing unrestricted access to as much data as possible.

Partnerships

- Private sector: software companies.
- NGOs: Transparency International, Freedom House.
- Others IOs and international programmes: UNESCO, UNICEF, and UN Women.

Evaluation

<p>Outcome: Increased participation and understanding of Egyptian democracy, particularly by young people and increased collaboration among different sectors relating to protection of democracy. Indicators: Degree of usage or activity in Tahrir Square from a significant portion of registered users.</p>				
Government contribution	UNDP contribution	Other partners' contributions	Indicators – Target	Indicative Country Programme Output
<p>Government's commitment to promote and sustain Tahrir Square as a platform wherein people from different sectors and backgrounds can freely share their insights.</p> <p>Government's support to maintenance of Tahrir Square.</p> <p>Governmental efforts in ICT infrastructure, affordability, connectivity, quality of internet service.</p> <p>Governmental efforts in multilingualism, gender equity, and respect for rights of minorities and human rights.</p>	<p>Support in facilitating different sectors in charge of the design and execution of Tahrir Square</p> <p>Support in raising funds for the development and maintenance of Tahrir Square</p>	<p>Support in maintenance including assigning of moderators to manage the Tahrir Square</p> <p>Support in information dissemination about Tahrir Square including its objectives</p>	<p># of registered users including those from political parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant representation of female users • Significant proportion from different districts or regions in Egypt <p># of discussion topics and polls</p> <p># of participants engaged in a discussion topic</p> <p># of new site visitors</p> <p>Target: 50 per cent of total voting population, with reasonable geographic and gender distribution within a year of launch.</p>	<p>Launching of Tahrir Square.</p> <p>Introducing ICT education in schools and training programs.</p> <p>Publicity and marketing of the Tahrir Square together with civil society, NGOs and government authorities.</p> <p>Implementation of Legal framework and public policies designed with respect to culture and language diversities, women empowerment, respect for people with disabilities and protection of fundamental rights in cyberspace.</p>

Bibliography and general references

Ali, A. (2011, July). The power of social media in developing nations: New tools for closing the global digital divide and beyond. Harvard Human Rights Journal. Retrieved from <http://harvardhrj.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/185-220.pdf>

Broadband Commission for Digital Development, (2011, June). Broadband: A platform for progress. Retrieved from http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Reports/Report_2.pdf

Cohan, P. (2012, January 20). Stanford MBA's Virtual Square for Student Q&A. Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/sites/petercohan/2012/01/20/stanford-mbas-virtual-square-for-student-qa/>

Freedom House. Egypt. Retrieved from <http://www.freedomhouse.org/country/egypt>
International IDEA, (2011). Voter turnout data for Egypt. Retrieved from http://www.idea.int/vt/country_view.cfm?CountryCode=EG

Internet World Stats. Usage and population statistics on Egypt. Retrieved from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#eg>

Janowski, T. Introduction to electronic governance. Tokyo: United Nations University. International Institute for Software Technology. Retrieved from <http://www.iist.unu.edu>

The World Factbook, (2012, July). Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/eg.html>

Twitter Usage in the MENA Region. (2011, June 8). Interactive Middle East. Retrieved from <http://interactiveme.com/index.php/2011/06/twitter-usage-in-the-mena-middle-east/>

UNDP. Democratic governance. Retrieved from <http://www.undp.org.eg/Default.aspx?tabid=151>

UNDP Projects on Egypt. Retrieved from <http://www.undp.org.eg/Default.aspx?tabid=78>

UNESCO World Report on Knowledge Societies, (2005). Towards knowledge societies. Retrieved from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001418/141843e.pdf>

UNESCO, (2003). Recommendation concerning the promotion and use of multilingualism and universal access to Cyberspace. Retrieved from <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/linguistic-diversity-and-multilingualism-on-Internet/normativeinstruments/recommendation/>

UN Women, (2011, June 22). UN launches initiative to make cities safer for Women and Children. Retrieved from <http://www.unwomen.org/2011/06/un-launches-initiative-to-make-cities-safer-for-women-and-children/>

'ENERGY FOR ALL BY 2020':
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN INDIA

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated initiative to address the challenges and opportunities of living in a world of seven billion.

Introduction

The year 2012 has witnessed the world population reach seven billion. As this figure continues to rise, so do great challenges and opportunities. As people tend to live longer, more demand is made of the Earth's resources. It is imperative that sustainable growth and consumption constitutes the global key priority in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015.

UNDP, as an organization, has been given the mandate to work with developing nations to meet the eight MDG goals, setting indicators, targets and empowering countries with financial and technical initiatives to attain their full potential and provide an exemplary framework for neighbouring countries. In this report, we investigate the access to energy in India, within a population of 1.2 billion.

Access to energy is not a direct MDG goal, but undoubtedly plays an important role in ensuring success is met with regards to eradicating hunger and poverty, reducing maternal deaths and ensuring education to females in the poorest of countries. India has over 400 million people with no access to energy and over 800 million that still employ traditional biomass for fuel.

Without access to energy, economic and social development cannot be reached successfully, particularly in developing countries. In collaboration with private and public partners, UNDP sets out an eight-year work programme strategy (2012-2020) to provide innovative and improved measurable indicators, as well as expected outcomes that can provide energy access to all in India by 2020.

Global outlook on energy

Currently around 20 per cent of the world population lack access to electricity, 40 per cent use traditional biomass for cooking, while the rest use unreliable electricity networks. Through its country teams in 135 developing countries, especially within the regions of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, UNDP works to give access to modern energy services to developing countries. Over the last two decades, UNDP has worked on a number of projects and programmes to support access to electricity, clean fuel and novel technologies in poor countries.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is leading a global initiative to mobilise action from all sectors of society in support of three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030: (i) providing universal access to modern energy services; (ii) doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (iii) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix requiring an investment of approximately three per cent of the total global energy investment.

Further, 2012 has been declared as the 'International Year of Sustainable Energy for All' which states that "access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries is essential for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals"

Energy in India

With a population of about 1.2 billion, India is ranked third for largest energy consumption in the world. Today, India's energy demand is projected to more than double from 2009 to 2035, rising from less than 700 Mtoe to nearly 1500 Mtoe with an average rate of energy demand growth of 3.1 per cent per year. Rapid economic growth and population growth in India are the two main drivers of this high increase in energy demand. Despite this, millions of Indians still lack access to modern energy services and previous efforts by the Indian government and the private sector to improve access to energy has had its fair share of successes and failures.

For example, current efforts by the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana Programme' (RGGVYP) and 'The National Energy for All programme by 2012' aimed to provide equal and sustainable energy access to all by 2012. However, the underlying problems with such programmes were not the lack of technology, given the vast investments into the sector of research and development, but the inability to deliver to areas where access to energy is most needed (fig. i).

Second, there is a lack of infrastructure in India's current main electrical delivery system, with significant gaps in the grid (fig. ii).

The three states with the least energy access in India are Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh. Bihar and Assam are proximate to river access and hydro power potential. However, as the states are poor and densely populated, subsidies for affordable electricity would be needed to support the access to energy in these areas. Such subsidies may include government-funded grants for electrification and provision of LPG (liquid petrol gas) for cooking purposes, constituting a public-private partnership.

In the slums, for instance in Bihar, simple but innovative solutions such as the introduction of the so-called 'solar powered biofuel lamps or LED (light emitting diodes)

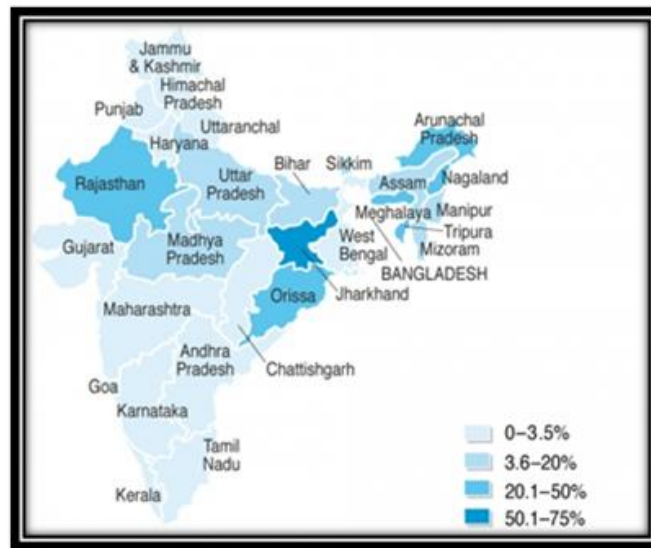


Figure 1. Percentage of unelectrified villages in Indian states. Source: Indian Ministry of Power, 2010

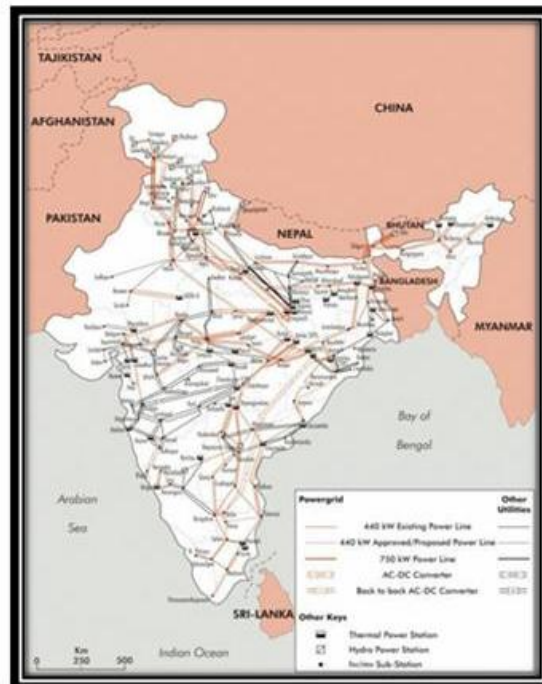


Figure 2. The Indian national electricity transmission grid. Source: Global Energy Network Institute, 2009



Figure 3. Alternative sources of energy from bio lamps/ LED lamps

lamps' (Fig. 3) are a promising means of supplying a free and eco-friendly source of energy during daylight hours, thereby significantly reducing energy costs and consumption.

Unlike the previous two states, Uttar Pradesh (UP) is India's most populous state and the second largest state-economy in India, with a GDP of \$103.5 billion in 2009. The UP Financial Corporation (UPFC) was established in 1954 under the State Financial Corporation SFCs Act 1951 mainly to develop small and medium scale industries in the state. UPFC provides financial assistance to new/existing units going in for diversification, modernization, expansion for acquisition of fixed assets such as land, building, plant and machinery. Despite this, the UP electricity board remains below its full production capacity. UNDP will work to encourage capacity building in such areas to ensure access to energy is provided through sourcing of raw materials at competitive prices.

Plan of action

Objectives and activities

UNDP's overall objective is to provide Indian states with widespread access to electricity, among all household and villages, regardless of geographic and/or socioeconomic status.

The UNDP plans to carry out its activities towards the completion of this objective by working closely with existing national programmes, such as the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidvutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) Programme and partnerships listed in this report.

Specifically, the UNDP aims to:

1. Assess the proportion, conditions and needs of rural and urban areas lacking an adequate supply of energy;
2. Extend and upgrade local resources, including power grids, sub-stations and lines, to provide a low-carbon-based energy source to households and villages;
3. Improve the grid by upgrading lines and transformers so that energy loss via transmission is minimised;
4. Implement the 'Last Mile' initiative whereby energy access is provided to remote areas through the construction of additional power lines or the generation of decentralized energy via a joint programme with India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE);
5. Mobilise financial resources and government subsidies to provide free electricity for households below the poverty line (BPL);
6. Implement the 'Work for Energy' programme in support of sustainable local development. This programme will aim to provide free electricity to households in exchange for individual achievements in education, skilled work and efficient energy consumption;
7. Develop and implement educational programmes to increase awareness of efficient energy consumption.

Expected indicators and outcomes

The UNDP expects to achieve significant progress by the year 2020 in partnership with local and national governments. Mid-term evaluation will be carried out in 2016, with the following indicators to be assessed:

1. Per capita energy consumption: This will assess the overall development of India;
2. Per capita energy consumption / residential: An indicator to assess how many people can pay for electricity in homes especially in regions with low income. It is expected that government subsidies will be applied in the poorest regions below poverty line (BPL);
3. Share of modern energy/ clean fuel use in homes, including innovative solutions e.g. conversion of biomass to clean energy fuel for cooking;
4. Share of population with access to electricity;

In addition, the UNDP anticipates that the development of newly-electrified communities will tie in with achieving the MDG targets set for India:

1. Number of boys and girls in schools: UNDP expects an increase in literacy rates with the ability to study in schools and homes;
2. Amount of new employment generated and resulting empowerment of women, demonstrated through the ability to perform indoor work activities in cleaner air and during the later hours;
3. Percentage decrease in crime rates reported, as street lights increase visibility and security;
4. Reported increased access to health facilities and suitably-stored medications, notably leading to improved maternal and child health;
5. Recorded usage of environmentally sustainable energy sources
6. Constructive ties with other communities/countries with the aim to provide energy for all.

Benchmarks

A three-tier quality monitoring system was established by the RGGVY programme to ensure thorough and objective framing:

- Tier One: managed by Project Implementing Agency (PIA) where 50 per cent of villages will be sampled randomly.
- Tier Two: managed by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) whereby quality checks will be performed at pre-shipment stage and in 10 per cent of villages.
- Tier Three: managed by Ministry of Power where full access to technical, administrative and financial records will be granted for evaluation, in addition to one per cent of villages covered.

The UNDP will provide assistance in progress monitoring relative to an established baseline (i.e. start date of programme implementation). Lessons learned will be recorded throughout the programme and published regularly by the UNDP to aid other developing states/countries in their fight to eradicate energy poverty.

Resources and partnerships

Whether consumers can afford electricity provided through new grids is an important parameter in getting access to energy. The costs of refurbishing or expanding grids are added to their tariffs by grid operators. The International Energy Agency estimates that households will pay between \$10/MWh and \$20/MWh in 2035 including infrastructure costs for transmission and distribution. This may be lower in poorer states in India and estimated resources will be identified before the programme starts.

UNDP recognises the barriers to sources of financing and the challenges that exist to scale up mechanisms. UNDP proposes to identify and secure funds from strong partnership alliances. UNDP will target all available financial resources from such parties for funds, grants, and subsidy allocations and technical assistance in order to combat these obstacles.

1. Multilateral development sources such as the World Bank Group, Asian Development Banks, regional development organizations and the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme for Low-Income Countries. These groups need to identify the country programme in order of priority and align with their own internal and existing programmes as such proposals might be tedious, long and time-consuming.
2. Bilateral sources that focus on bilateral development and provision of developmental assistance are usually from the 24 OECD countries that are members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. These OECD member countries account for the bulk of global development aid (99 per cent of total ODA in 2010).
3. Credits from the International Development Association and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for energy access projects. However, obtaining grants can require long proposal preparation periods which need to satisfy multiple criteria.
4. UNDP and UNEP have previously been active in helping develop schemes for end-user finance.
5. Risk insurers are also important to have on board because they can provide an advantage for governments in securing loans and insuring private investors against liability risks e.g. non-payment and /or civil disturbances.
6. India's national government sources and development banks. Important sources and forms of finance from within developing countries include the balance sheet of state-owned utilities, subsidies provided by the government, grants and loans offered by developing country national development banks, and specialised national institutions and funds, such as rural energy agencies.
7. Private sector financing sources for energy access investments such as microfinance institutions, as well as international and domestic project developers, concessionaires and contractors. Previously, microfinance has been used as part of several programmes to tackle the problem of end-user financing for energy access in India and Bangladesh. It has been found to be particularly useful for grid connection fees and LPG stoves.
8. UNDP will monitor the progress of such partnerships and ensure access is guaranteed in places where this has not been looked into.

Obstacles and barriers

There are barriers to increasing energy access in India particularly via decentralized and renewable energy approaches. In this section, we present some anticipated barriers and obstacles to energy access in India.

1. Political priority

Access to modern energy across India must be treated as a top political priority and consequently, policies and funds have to be allocated accordingly. It is clear from the MDG progress report on India that the MDG goals have had their share of failures and success, with minimal progress on some MDG targets and reportable indicators. To achieve a sustainable existence in a world of seven billion, the percentage of people with access to modern energy must remain a key priority for national governments, local authorities, regulators and policy developers. Strategies for energy access must be defined, reached, monitored and measured realistically.

2. Economic barriers

High initial cost and availability of funds to project investors is a barrier to energy access. Additional investment must be mobilised by all participating parties. The high cost of the extension of the grid in India, for instance, is estimated at €50,000/km. Therefore, all sources and forms of investment finance must be tapped into in order to meet the high cost of the projects for implementation of infrastructures, price of access to energy (for households), benefits (to the providers, while taking into account the public regulator of the grid in that they mediate between government and private companies, addressing the question of taxing and subsidies). To ensure private party participation, governments must ensure they have a strong regulatory framework in place and invest in capacity building.

3. Access to areas below the poverty line (BPL)

In India, there are areas that may not offer an immediate or adequate financial return, such as Bihar and poorer states. However, the national government and investment organizations must concentrate on such areas, identifying alternative energy sources at low cost, to overcome the barrier of initial capital return and gaining access to energy by 2020. UNDP's role will be to strategise with such bodies to support and engage with funding bodies on the importance of overcoming such barriers.

4. Physical barriers

Lack of access and immediate financial return on energy investments is often the result of poor road infrastructure, and community isolation. As a result, poor roadways constitute a considerable hurdle in the provision of energy for all. Innovative solutions must be in place to achieve UNDP goals by 2020.

5. Political and policy barriers

Badly targeted subsidies, inadequate follow-up, monitoring, implementation and the establishment of unrealistic targets are some obstacles in achieving the goal of providing energy for all. Moving from a situation of state monopoly to a fruitful partnership

between the government and private sector are key to further developing the energy sector and supplying energy to the Indian population.

6. Cultural barriers

Access to energy and provision for all will increase the cost in urban city or richer states. Reluctance to accept development and/or pay more for living in such areas/ states may be a barrier. High energy consumption of the local people for example, forgetting to switch off electricity when it is not needed may lead to inefficiency. The reluctance of local people to accept development may also hinder energy access. The Indian government has realised the necessity of a green policy, but because of the population's lack of awareness, this has not been successful. These barriers need to be counteracted by empowering local communities, education and awareness, and dealing sensitively with culture, in order to achieve energy access, efficiency, and human and country development.

Programme evaluation

UNDP will employ both a mid-term and long term monitoring and evaluation strategy to ensure completion of work and monitor the programme cycle.

The evaluation will set out objectives and activities of the evaluation process, and serve as a means of quality assurance and learning process.

UNDP activities will include:

1. Identifying lessons, successes and failures from past programmes. UNDP will conduct case studies to identify key lessons. Consistent time frames will be adhered to for robustness of case studies and to provide a comprehensive assessment of UNDP's progress;
2. An evaluation body for which the scope, roles, responsibilities and time frame for completion will be set out;
3. Establish criteria necessary for analysis of the work programme, its relevance and response to the UNDP goals and targets in India. For instance, enabling market schemes such as identification of tax exemption schemes, levy and subsidy positions, grant and fund level and impact of subsidies on employment generation, gender schooling in rural households etc;
4. A coherent approach that will utilise all focus groups i.e. the household, villages and independent parties;
5. An integrated planning and assessment of work from beginning to end of programme;
6. An assessment of the number of pilot projects on hand, its relevance and effectiveness;
7. A review of indicators, to ensure that they are measurable, valid and consistent;
8. An elucidation of expected outcomes to evaluate if they were the anticipated, positive, negative or unachievable.
9. Specifically, core methods for analysis will include data collection, interviews (stakeholders' independent observers), and field data from visits, group discussions, energy data and number of electrified households. The findings will be reported in the final country programme evaluation report.

Conclusion

UNDP is working with the Indian government and associated partners to source funds to ensure that Indian states have access to energy by 2020, regardless of income, social status and location. Today, the population of India has reached 1.2 billion in a world of seven billion - posing immense challenges for the achievement of the MDG goals and ensuing sustainable development.

More than 20 per cent of the population lack access to energy despite substantial economic growth, and many more do not have access to clean fuel for daily functions. Despite previous attempts by the Indian government to provide energy to all by 2012, such programmes have not been successful. This has been due to many reasons such as a lack of infrastructure, integrated innovative and modern solutions, and policy guidance for equal access to energy.

UNDP will work with such existing programmes to ensure continual capacity building, the development of effective global and local partnerships and the integration of a robust monitoring process into its working programme. By working together with this focus, UNDP will help achieve energy access to all in India, towards the realisation of its four pillar challenges, with India acting as a benchmark for other countries.

References

Clean Technica, available at <http://cleantechnica.com/2010/05/29/solar-powered-led-lamps-to-bring-green-energy-to-indias-rural-areas/> First accessed on the 30th July 2012

EIA International Energy Outlook report 2007, available at <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/index.cfm> First accessed on the 11th July, 2012.

Energy poverty: How to make modern energy universal? The OECD/IEA report 2010, available at <http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/name.3925.en.html> First accessed on the 11th July, 2012.

Global Energy Network Institute, 2009 (zoom on India): Energy plans for India. International Development series 2, 2011, available at <http://poldev.revues.org/1164> DOI: 10.4000/poldev.1164. First accessed on 27 July, 2012.

Grossman, G. and Krueger, A. (1994) Economic Growth and the Environment, NBER Working Papers, 4634

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) Programme, Ministry of Power, Government of India, 2010, available at <http://rggvv.gov.in/rggvv/rggvportal/index.html> First accessed on the 11th of July, 2012.

Sylvain Quoilin, 2010, Analysis and issues of a project for rural electrification by solar micro to the Lesotho, University of Liege, Belgium, available at <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/74974>

UNDP MDG Country progress reports Asia and the Pacific (India), available at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/mdg-reports/asia-pacific> First accessed on the 13th of July, 2012.

UNDP Fast Facts, available at <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corpyate/fast-facts/english/FF> First accessed on 17 July 2012.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki moon 2011, General Assembly 65th session, Resolution. 65/151, 16 February 2011, p.2.

Utter Pratesh Financial Corporation (UPFC), available at <http://www.upfcindia.com/home.html> Accessed on the 30th July 2012.

MAINSTREAMING AGEING IN A WORLD OF 7 BILLION:
A UNECE WORK PROGRAMME

A United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) facilitated initiative to address the challenges and opportunities of living in a world of seven billion

Introduction

The UNECE was established in 1947 to promote the economic integration of the European area. Today 56 countries located in the European Union (EU), non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America carry out its mandate of regional integration for sustainable development.

This document has been drafted on the occasion of the United Nations 50th Graduate Study Programme (GSP) with the aim of outlining key priorities of the UNECE with regard to a world of seven billion people. In particular, taking into account the upcoming events and work of the Commission, concern has focused on the issue of ageing populations, in a world that has never been so populous and so old.

As outlined in the State of World Population report 2011, “as today’s youth moves into middle age and beyond, the ageing population will grow faster than any other sector of the global population until at least 2050”, according to a 2009 report from the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Ageing 1950-2050. This is already a recognized major policy challenge in countries where longevity is high and the youth population is shrinking. In middle-income and low-income countries, too, population percentages of the 60-plus, 70-plus and even in some cases 80-plus are steadily creeping upwards.”

In line with what has been declared in the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) for the UNECE region, the commitment of this Working Group is to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the demographic transition which will affect in various ways the social and economic structure of the area. Indeed, “demographic changes are challenging the tenets of social security arrangements in the UNECE region. For example, in the future a smaller working population will have to support the financial needs of an ageing as stated in the Regional Implementation Strategy for the MIPAA 2002.

The phenomenon of an ageing population requires a comprehensive policy agenda that focuses on socio-economic and political affairs and a holistic approach towards the concerns has been adopted in order to ensure long-term sustainable outcomes. To achieve this, UNECE shall focus on the following areas of work: economic cooperation and integration, environment, sustainable energy, transport and migration.

UNECE mandate

In order to address the issue of ageing populations in a world of seven billion people, UNECE, as part of its mandate, facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation, promotes awareness of environmental changes and their impact on the economic well-being of the member nations. The Commission also has a focus on the effective use of energy resources and transportation services, to make them accessible and affordable for ageing populations in particular. To do so, UNECE:

- Engages in policy dialogue
- Develops regulations and norms
- Promotes exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise
- Facilitates technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition

Objectives: leveraging opportunities, addressing challenges

In order to address the issue of ageing populations in a world of seven billion people, a number of objectives have been identified that form overarching goals for the work of the UNECE. These are:

- Strengthening capacities at national level
- Enhancing regional cooperation
- Improving sustainable use of human and natural resources
- Creating an age-inclusive society
- Improving quality of life for ageing populations
- Ensuring appropriate standard of living
- Maximising the potential of older persons

Main areas of work

Economic cooperation and integration

Overall objective: To promote sustainability in a world of seven billion people, in turn promoting longer working lives for ageing people.

- To increase the amount of enterprises owned by retired people.
- To encourage the innovation of new business patterns, especially involving the increased use of retired people as employees at enterprises.
- To reduce the use of public resources for pensions and wellbeing of elderly people.

Activities

1. Work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to attract private investment into finance
2. Business start-ups, launched by retired people
3. Encouraging companies open to employing retired people
4. Capacity-building activities focusing on the business environment in UNECE member-states, and working with governments regarding legislation and bonuses for retired people in business
5. Promotion of entrepreneurship for retired people, ensuring more firm-level support
6. Knowledge-based development: supporting cooperation between universities and entrepreneurs to motivate innovative business to employ retired university scientists, with innovation experience, to improve their business. Also, financing for innovative development (working with governments, business organizations)
7. Disseminating brochures, online information, holding seminars for retired people to explain the role of innovation and opportunities in business; opportunities for retired people to set up business; the role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in innovation; ways to reduce economic costs related to IPR infringement in their company; sources of financing for business start-ups
8. E-business: creating a favourable environment for retired people in electronic business projects (electronic databases of retired people contacts who are willing to work, websites, etc.), leading to less costs for travelling to the workplace, making it easy for retired people with disabilities and mobility difficulties.

Expected results

- The amount of companies owned by retired people is increased.
- The employment of elderly people is increased.

Benchmarks

For a period of two years:

- Policy: relevant policy facilitation / implementation in all UNECE member countries (minimum 10 policies are implemented)

- Technology: ICT software/databases/websites/programmes development and facilitation
- Awareness: workshops and public seminars (minimum four workshops and four seminars are held)
- Job creation: target set to create at least 2,000 jobs for elderly people in two years

Obstacles

For innovation in entrepreneurship

1. Changing the mindset of elderly persons through education and awareness improvement
2. Tests of feasibility
3. For PPPs: tackling the different approaches taken by public and private sectors which can result in contradictions of purposes

Partnerships

- Horizontal involvement and interaction between different institutional and productive sectors (private sector, governments of member states, universities)
- Support from other organizations in the UN family

Energy

Overall objective: Ensuring equal access for all ages to an adequate and stable energy supply, according to their needs (heating, cooking, electricity, transport), with the aim of diminishing the vulnerability of older people to sudden changes in energy supply, such as price or energy source.

- Diminishing significant physical obstacles, ranging from transport issues and acquisition of fuel, to reduced mobility and physical impairment, with a view to reducing energy poverty within an ageing population.
- Improve quantity and quality of collection of data on older people and access to an affordable and stable supply of energy, disaggregated by age, gender, location etc.
- Ensuring improved energy efficiency in housing stock with an aim to reduce overall energy demand amongst the older population.

Activities

1. Research into feasibility of the use of PPPs to provide affordable energy to older persons.
2. Implementation of social welfare schemes to provide stable prices and/or subsidies for older persons.
3. Establishment of a committee to provide research and reports on mechanisms to reduce vulnerability of older people to changes in energy supply.
4. Research into obstacles specific to an ageing population and energy poverty.
5. Research into local level solutions to physical barriers to energy security for an ageing population.
6. Ensuring cross-member compatibility of statistical information and methodologies.
7. Ensuring the availability of such information for monitoring of processes and research work through setting standards across member states.
8. Undertaking of expert-led statistical workshops open to member states' national statistics bureaux to promote capacity building.
9. Setting standards for new housing stock construction with regards to insulation and energy efficiency.
10. Information dissemination regarding energy economy and savings.

Expected results

- Creation of PPPs to deliver more affordable energy to elderly people.
- Reduced vulnerability of older people to sudden changes in energy supply.
- Increased availability of data on ageing and energy throughout member states.
- Improved capacity of member states to collect data on ageing and energy trends.
- Reduction in overall demand for energy supply from older persons.
- Improvement in housing stock energy efficiency standards.
- Better understanding and knowledge amongst older people of energy saving and efficiency methods.
- Increased use of information campaigns by Member States.

Benchmarks

- Enter into dialogue with all member states regarding PPPs within six months.
- Establish an information campaign toolkit for all member states within six months.
- Establish a standards committee concerning energy efficiency within one year.
- Report on reducing vulnerability within one year of the establishment of the committee.
- Reduce energy poverty due to access issues among the ageing population.
- Expansion of current Contextual Database of the Generations and Gender Programme to include more statistical data on ageing and energy, within one year.
- Series of statistical workshops focusing on ageing and energy, held within one year.

Obstacles

1. Opposition from private sector (due to reduced aggregate energy demand from older persons) and public opinion.
2. Budgetary implications.
3. Lack of funding for statistical collection.
4. Opposition from private utilities due to reduced aggregate demand from older persons for energy.

Partnerships

- Major energy utilities of Member States.
- NGOs for older persons
- Member States' social welfare institutions.
- OECD
- EU
- Local community organizations.
- National statistical offices.
- UN Statistical Commission.
- Member States Governments' housing departments.
- Member States' public information services.

Transport

Overall objective: to create an environment where ageing population has accessible, affordable, safe, quality transportation services.

Activities

1. Road safety: To design public traffic systems including roads and pedestrian thoroughfares to accommodate the needs of older persons (motorists, cyclists, pedestrians).
2. Geographical challenges: To provide increased and more affordable transport facilities in remote areas to counter the challenge for elderly non-drivers of walking distances to public transportation systems, in turn reducing geographical barriers to transport access.
3. Inadequate ingress and improvement of infrastructure: Build convenient steps for the elderly to board buses and trains. Prolong the duration of door opening in subway cars for slow walkers, as well as traffic signal timing so that a green traffic light is on long enough to permit safe crossing. Improve conditions of sidewalks, build kerbside access to vehicles, bus stops, define signalling at pedestrian crossings and illuminate subway crossings.
4. Promote lifelong mobility for ageing population, recognising that convenient transportation services also lead to better access to health services, which are typically in high demand among the elderly.
5. Help elderly people to use existing services by frequent workshops. This will contribute to cost savings and freedom of movement. Better land-use planning in terms of community design can help to improve living conditions of the elderly and facilitate their social interactions.
6. Road safety for older people: Promote general awareness of the public through mass media and developing guidelines for safer driving by the elderly.

Expected results

- Improved road safety
- Increased involvement in the social sphere and longer life expectancy
- Increased mobility of older persons
- Decreased number of accidents on roads (for all generations)

Benchmarks

- To achieve 10 per cent fewer injuries and fatalities among elderly people, attributed to increased road safety, within two years.
- Increase in public transportation use among elderly by 10 per cent, within two years.

Obstacles

1. Lack of financial resources.
2. Lack of collaboration/cooperation from national and local governments.
3. Cultural and individual preferences which may lower the use of public transportation or private vehicles.

Partnerships

- EU
- NGOs
- Ministries of Transportation, Ministries of Education (quality of driver training).
- Major public transport vehicle retailers

Migration

Overall objective: Given the facts of ageing and migration, the general objective is to facilitate the integration of migrants while ensuring the best possible economic outcome for the destination and home countries and individuals.

Specific objectives:

1. Enhance the focus on migration with regard to ageing populations in UNECE countries. Increase protection from abuse and exploitation for migrant workers during the time they work and protecting their economic rights on their return.
2. Encourage good employment rates for migrants in a range of sectors.
3. Reduce illegal migration.
4. Increase social services available to elderly people and children in countries affected by emigration.

Activities

On Objective One:

1. Improve the depth and breadth of data on migration related to migration and ageing.
2. Develop statistical networks and partnerships.

On Objective Two:

1. Facilitate access to information on workers benefits including retirement benefits.
2. Improve employment legislation to protect migrant workers.
3. Translation of guides into relevant languages (e.g. Romanian, Arabic).
4. Increase the number of bilateral agreements, taking best practices into account.
5. Establish regional monitoring facilities and complaints mechanisms available to both regular and irregular migrant workers.

On Objective Three:

1. Promote life-long learning programmes and language courses.
2. Improve international recruitment to ensure that migrants are employed upon arrival.
3. Reinforce/create representative bodies for migrant workers (e.g. labour unions...).

On Objective Four:

1. New bilateral/multilateral agreements to encourage regular migration for employment opportunities.
2. Information campaigns about the benefits of legal immigration.

On Objective Five:

1. Improve quality and quantity of data related to emigration particularly in CIS countries.

2. Promoting best-practices and exchange of information among countries.

Expected results

- Statistical data are analyzed with a regional/international approach.
- New improved statistics and better regional indicators with regard to migration are created.
- Economic and social protection for migrants is ensured.
- Migrants are well aware of the retirement system and their benefits.
- Higher economic growth.
- Higher labour force participation rate (especially among women).
- Decreased illegal migration and increased legal migration.
- Better delivery of services for older people and children “left behind” by migrating parents.

Benchmarks

Within a period of two years:

- The creation of one data network on migration related to ageing.
- Two journal papers on migration due to ageing populations
- Legal guides are published in the six most relevant languages in all migrant-receiving countries.
- Regularly organized workshop and information-days
- Relevant policy facilitation for integration.
- Network building among public, national and international offices.
- Creation of offices where irregular and regular migrants can access information.
- A study into aged care facilities in countries experiencing highest emigration to evaluate the impact on the older community.

Obstacles

1. Information gaps in terms of lack of data and reliability.
2. Lack of cooperation and inconsistencies.
3. Lack of willingness from governments.
4. Lack of support from public opinion.
5. Low motivation among migrants.
6. Dependence on the welfare state.
7. Low educational level of migrants.
8. Economic recession.
9. Fear of increased migration and lack of cooperation.
10. International crises.
11. Low health budgets in rural areas and less developed states.
12. Lack of capacity and skills of local authorities.

Partnerships

- National statistics offices
- International Organization for Migration

- Universities
- International Labour Organization
- World Bank
- Private companies (PPP).

Environment

Objectives: To improve social and economic policies aimed at providing ageing populations with a healthy living and working environment.

1. Reducing the causes of social exclusion through the creation of a more suitable environment for elderly people.
2. Promoting an environmentally-friendly housing system in order to reach microeconomic efficiency.
3. Encouraging tailored approaches for a real and concrete intergenerational solidarity.

Activities

On Objective One:

1. Increasing urban green areas and improving existing gardens and parks in order to make them "disability-friendly" with benches that allow older people to sit down, fewer or no stairs, better availability of lifts.
2. Providing assistance centres for the elderly with adequate consideration for "green" social activities such as public gardening or "didactic farms", which allow daily contact with nature, healthy physical exercise and a fruitful exchange of knowledge among generations.
3. Combating social exclusion of elderly people through the provision of suitable "green jobs" for the elderly, created with apposite items of expenditure in the budget (i.e. two per cent of the GDP, as proposed by UNEP).

On Objective Two:

1. Implementing programmes to identify and dispose of vacant and abandoned buildings in order to give homeless elders somewhere to live.
2. Creating "cooperatives of elders" or "granny flats" for old people who decide on a voluntary basis to live together to bring down the economic costs and environmental impact caused by single occupant households.
3. Promoting a study on the environmental impact of the lives of older persons in order to individuate those regions which need investments to improve their standards of health and living.
4. Developing specialized policies and interventions in order to guarantee specialized care and safe shelter for the elderly in case of catastrophic natural events.

On Objective Three

1. Informing all age groups about the relationship that exists between environment and ageing in order to increase social awareness towards environmental-related problems of the elderly.
2. Promoting opportunities for business companies to employ older workers as "instructors" for young people with a real transfer of knowledge.
3. Encouraging "green volunteering" programmes allowing older people to pass on their know-how to younger people in relation to environmental-friendly activities (such as how to recycle things and repair or reuse them).

Expected results

- A vibrant community where older people can still be active.
- Housing options with a more efficient use of resources.
- Intergenerational solidarity as a way to improve quality of life.

Benchmarks

Every six months the following items will be assessed (for a period of two years):

- Level of implementation of policies related to housing diversification, job creation and volunteering support in all UNECE Member States.
- Statistical surveys on the conditions of older people in relation to their environment with particular regard to social and economic indicators.
- Inquiries on intergenerational solidarity reached through dedicated workshops and public seminars at national and local levels.
- Overall environmental impact of the measures taken by Member States in housing rationalization and green volunteering areas.

Obstacles

1. Conventional approaches to urban planning.
2. Reluctance towards change in the elderly
3. Scarce availability of resources due to the economic and debt crises.
4. A polarised and divided civil society.

Partnerships

The programme will benefit from the involvement of all the most relevant stakeholders in the field of social and economic integration and environmental protection. Through cross-border interaction of different institutional and productive actors (private, national and local governments, universities and media), the support of NGOs, and international organizations, the overall objective will be a knowledge-based development which will allow older persons to find adequate inspiration to find their active place in the community.

Resources

Regarding resources, it is important to underline how the question is not just a matter of fundraising but one that encompasses a greater evaluation of performance management. Indeed, the efficient allocation of funds deals not only with the quantitative determination of budgets but also with the quality of projects and the overall assessment of expected results.

In general, the resources for the implementation of this work programme will come from national and local authorities through the combination of traditional and innovative (credit assurance, equity investment, or soft second loans) budget schemes. A relevant source for financing the projects shall also be the involvement of regional and international

organizations dealing with the areas of planned intervention. An important role could be also played by the PPPs through increasing cooperation with the private sector.

Finally, it seems useful to underline how tailored and appropriate extra-budgetary partnerships both with public and private actors could have an overwhelming impact. In that sense, the future work will be oriented to stimulating the provision of voluntary contributions from Member States and private stakeholders (equity funds, private foundation, etc...), and the implementation of bilateral aid schemes in the form of technical cooperation.

Evaluation

The evaluation process for this work programme will follow the code of conduct set up by the UNECE Programme, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit with its “Guide for Biennial Evaluations of Subprogram Performance by UNECE Sectoral Committees” (2006). In this sense, the evaluation process is seen as an integral part of effective results-based management, together with planning, budgeting and monitoring. The final aim of the evaluation process is to provide a source of information to support management choices, grant transparency and effectiveness and measure in a more accurate way the impact of activities and the results obtained. UNECE suggests member states combine quantitative and qualitative analysis in assessing the situation.

In particular, given the important objectives and the ambitious goals pursued by this Working Plan and the direct impact on the life of millions of citizens, the UNECE invites member states not to limit the evaluation process at the national level but also to involve the Commission through a system of annual reports to the Secretariat and a voluntary monitoring process based on the peer review principle.

FAMILY PLANNING AND MATERNAL HEALTH IN BANGLADESH:
THE MANDATE OF UNFPA IN BANGLADESH AND ITS
CURRENT SITUATION OF MATERNAL HEALTH

A United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) facilitated analysis to address the challenges and opportunities of living in a world of seven billion.

Introduction

In a world of seven billion, strengthening and expanding access to maternal and newborn health care is one of the principle goals of the UNFPA. In order to achieve Millennium Development Goals Four and Five (MDG4 and MDG5) to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Health Organization has helped many countries to improve financing, strengthen policies and enhance service delivery in the field of maternal and newborn health.

Mandate

The UNFPA was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1973 and was reaffirmed in 1993. It is an organization mandated to:

- Educate and build capacity to respond to the needs of the population and family planning;
- Increase both the developed and developing countries awareness regarding population problems and the strategies which may be used to resolve such issues;
- Help countries with their population problems according to the needs of each country;
- Bring population issues to the United Nations and coordinate projects.

The International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 was an important conference for the UNFPA, where the above stated mandates were broadened to include emphasis on gender and human rights issues. In total 179 governments adopted the Programme of Action decided at the Cairo Conference, agreeing to give the leading role to UNFPA.

Other international agreements which followed the Cairo Conference such as at the Millennium Summit (2000) and the World Summit (2005) have given additional specific and time-limited goals and also increased its emphasis on HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) prevention and poverty reduction. The three main mandates of the UNFPA today are the fields of reproductive health, gender equality and population and development strategies.

Women play an important role in the development of nations, particularly in a world of today with a universal population of seven billion. While many women benefit from high development opportunities for their maternal health, many lose their lives and a number of them suffer from serious injuries such as obstetric fistula during pregnancy or delivery due to preventable complications.

Bangladesh draws attention as one of the largest and most densely populated nations among the least developed countries, with a young population of 164 million, one third of these being under 15 years of age. It is frequently affected by natural disasters. The country is facing an important demographic challenge in terms of its growing population and density and the number of women in the reproductive age group is constantly increasing.

Furthermore, the level of adolescent fertility (133 births per women age 15 to 19) is one of the highest in the world. Despite these difficulties the country is facing, the economy has increased assistance aimed at lowering poverty levels. It can also be perceived from the findings of the UNFPA that the number of women participating in education is increasing, positively affecting knowledge on family planning and playing a role in the reduction of maternal mortality rates (a 61 per cent decline since 1990).

The efforts of UN organizations to assist the Government of Bangladesh in enhancing maternal and newborn health services have led to a safer environment for childbirth in the past 20 years, though the level of maternal mortality remains high. More than 7,000 women die every year from avoidable causes related to pregnancy and delivery. (Maternal health ratio = 340 per 100,000 live births).

Despite the progress achieved in the past three years, there are still worrying trends in maternal health. The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) findings of 2011 show that from almost 17,800 married women, only 32 deliveries were attended by a medically trained provider. This number was even lower in the findings of 2007 (only 21).

Concerning prenatal care, it is highlighted that in 2011, only 27 mothers had received pre-natal care within two days of delivery from a medically trained provider, whereas the number was 20 in 2007. The aim of the Bangladeshi Government is to increase these indicators by 50 per cent by 2016.

In addition to this, child mortality remains quite high: between 2007 and 2011, the neonatal mortality was 32 deaths per 1,000 live births. There is also room for considerable development of midwifery. The BDHS findings show that in 2011 there were 26,899 midwives and only 1,250 obstetricians in Bangladesh, so per 1,000 live births, there were around eight midwives.

The above-mentioned findings indicate that Bangladesh must increase its family planning and improve its maternal health. Therefore UNFPA is establishing this work programme on: "Bangladesh: Expanding access to family planning - the way forward."

Currently, the function of the UNFPA in Bangladesh is to support different programmes not only in the fields of surgery and rehabilitation but also economic and social reintegration for those in need. Its aim in the country is to help improve its level of maternal health and to achieve these goals. This is to be achieved through the identification of gaps in practices and to draw out a programme to achieve the targets of improving maternal health conditions by UNFPA. One example of the work of UNFPA is its support for a three-year midwifery degree programme, together with a six-month specialised training programme for nurses.

Among the main concerns of the organization in Bangladesh are child marriages and early pregnancies, which are the major reasons for maternal mortality. Currently, an increased number of Bangladeshi women have begun to access methods of family planning and safe abortion, leading to a decrease in maternal mortality rates.

Family planning programme: Analysis of the current situation and background

Family planning activities in Bangladesh began in the early 1950s with three distinct phases. In 1973, the third phase began where the family planning programme was identified by the government as an integral part of the development process. However, in the mid-1990s, the effectiveness of the programme started to decrease due to lack of political will and commitment to implementation.

Following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, a national plan of action for the implementation of their goals was created by the Government of Bangladesh. Several issues were addressed such as HIV/AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) and sexually transmitted diseases; however, the main matters that are discussed were family planning and maternal health.

In 2011 with an estimate population of 164 million, Bangladesh became the largest and the most densely populated of the least developed countries. The adolescent population (15 to 19 years old) and the women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years old) represent 10 per cent and 28 per cent respectively, with a total fertility rate of 2.3 on average. The latter has declined over the years as compared to the 1960s when the total fertility rate was over seven on average.

The fertility trends in urban-rural comparisons also declined over the years from 2.5 in urban areas and 3.5 in rural areas in 1999 to two in urban areas and 2.5 in rural areas in 2011, getting closer to the aim of two by 2016. Further, fertility preferences are changing with time as well, 82 per cent of women with two children want no more in 2011 as compared to 66 per cent in 1999.

With 28 per cent of the population living in urban areas, 70 per cent of these women gave birth at home in 2007 instead of attending a private/NGO/public facility as compared to 90 per cent of women living in rural areas. In addition, around 65 per cent of women in urban areas gave birth alone in 2007 instead of being attended by midwives or a doctor as compared to approximately 90 per cent of women living in rural areas.

In addition, the contraceptive prevalence rate in Bangladesh has increased gradually from 39.9 per cent in 1991 to 61 per cent in 2011, getting closer to the 72 per cent aim by 2016. The trend also increased in rural area from 54 per cent use of any family planning method in 2007 to 60 per cent in 2011 (NIPORT, 2011). The most common contraception methods used in 2011 were contraceptive pills (27.2 per cent), followed by injectables (11.2 per cent), periodic abstinence (6.9 per cent), condoms (5.5 per cent), and female sterilization (5 per cent).

Early marriage and motherhood are very common in Bangladesh, leading to adolescent birth. However, the adolescent birth rate has declined from 7.7 per cent in 1991 to 6.2 per cent in 2009. On average, according to NIPORT 2011, 25 per cent of women gave birth when younger than 20, 57 per cent during their twenties, and 17 per cent during their thirties.

Several gaps are present in the family planning programme in relation to Bangladeshi culture and its demographic situation. Not only a lack of coordination between the core areas of the programme, namely health, family planning, and nutrition services, but also

a lack of personnel needed for these services. The insufficient number of health workers is predominant, especially in the rural areas despite expansion of physical facilities.

Several disparities impair the services women can receive. These include living in a town or country area, the mother's education level, household wealth and geographic location. However, a lack of accessibility and the lack of knowledge remain the main concern. On the one hand, public spending on health is insufficient and not directed in areas where it is most needed; on the other hand, logistics and procurement processes to access contraceptives are unsatisfactory.

Further, the lack of knowledge about maternal health among women and their families is primarily due to women's social marginalisation and low socio-economic status, as well as the lack of control over their personal lives. Most importantly, decreasing child and adolescent marriages is a major challenge in Bangladesh as most of them are held before the legal age, which is 18 years old for women.

Obstacles to implementing family planning (FP) and maternal health programmes

1. Lack of political will and commitment

The overall political environment in the country is far less supportive of a broad-based approach to containing the rate of population growth in the country (see also Alauddin et. al. 2010). Indeed, since the mid-1990s, there has been erosion in political will and lack of commitment by successive governments to tackle the problem (Khuda and Barkat, 2010)

2. Inclusion of men in FP activities

Men continue to play a role in family planning, regardless of their level of knowledge of FP methods, therefore, their inclusion in the FP process is important. Recent research has indicated that education levels are currently the single largest predictor of likelihood of FP involvement. However, where there is a high-penetration of family planning services, men are generally less likely to be involved as it has been framed as largely a woman's issue. Therefore, family planning work focusing on men will need to carefully consider the various aspects of gender dynamics around FP.

3. Inadequate and inefficient service delivery

A critical component of FP service delivery has been the use of field workers, with community interventions generally seen as being the most effective. However, in 2007 only 21 per cent of married women reported having been visited by a FP fieldworker (84 per cent of them by Government of Bangladesh (GOB) field workers and only 16 per cent by NGO field workers) - a sharp decline from 43 per cent in 1993.

4. Low contraceptive use among young married women

Among women less than 20 years of age, 42 per cent used contraception and only 38 per cent used modern methods. Compared to the national rates, the use of any methods, modern or traditional was lower again among adolescent women were lower - 25 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. Given the disproportionately high share of such women in the total fertility rate (23 per cent), low contraceptive use among young married women is a major gap in the programme.

5. Regional variations in contraceptive use

There are pronounced regional variations in contraceptive use in Bangladesh. It is higher in urban areas (62 per cent) than rural areas (54 per cent), although the urban-rural gap has been narrowing since 1996. The urban-rural gap is primarily due to higher use of condoms in urban areas (9.5 per cent) than in rural ones (3 per cent). Within urban areas, the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is lower in slums than in non-slum areas.

6. High discontinuation rate

A key concern for FP programmes over-dependent on temporary modern methods is the rate of discontinuation and clients' reasons for discontinuation. Most users drop out because of method failure, side effects, health reasons, or because they want to become

pregnant. Dropping out on account of side effects and method failure indicates low quality of FP services.

7. Rising and unmet need for contraception

The unmet need for contraception increased from 11 per cent in 2004 to 17 per cent in 2007. Further, if those using traditional methods of FP (eight per cent in 2007) are considered, the unmet need for effective methods of contraception was in fact 25 per cent in 2007. Unmet need has increased across all age groups, all educational groups, in both rural and urban areas, and in all geographical regions of the country.

8. High future intention to use

Seventy per cent of the non-users in the 2007 BDHS reported that they want to use FP in future. The high proportion of non-users who intend to practice FP in future creates both a challenge as well as an opportunity for the programme to be able to provide them with access to quality FP services.

9. Gaps in contraceptive security

Bangladesh faces an issue with consistently procuring and distributing sufficient levels of contraceptives.

10. Lack of adequate support for behavioural change communication (BCC)

Communication is an integral part of the FP programme to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, to promote and sustain behavioural changes among different population groups towards a norm of a small family size as well as promoting the use of contraception.

Major constraints to implementation of BCC strategies include:

- a lack of adequate support from the higher level decision-makers,
- inadequate funding
- a lack of trained staff
- the limited capacity of the DGFP's printing press to print different types of BCC materials.

Consequently, basic knowledge of FP methods is low; and provider knowledge is relatively low, resulting in poor quality of service, which, in turn, leads to ineffective use of FP methods, unwanted pregnancies and an increased use of menstrual regulation and abortion.

11. Limited government funding and actual expenditure

The total health expenditure (THE) was estimated at \$2.32 billion in 2007, up from \$1.4 billion in 2001 and \$1.1 billion in 1997. THE as a percentage of GDP was 2.7 per cent during 1997-2000, increasing to 3.4 per cent in 2007. Per capita spending on health increased from \$9 in 1997 to \$16 in 2007, one of the lowest in the world.

Generally, allocation of funding to the FP and maternal, child and RH programme is inadequate and the resources provided are further constrained by widespread system inefficiencies, weak planning capacity and an overly centralized approval process.

Partnerships: Family planning

UNFPA works in association with numerous entities. Concerning family planning, three types of partnerships are common: with the GOB, institutions and other organizations.

Government

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- Ministry of Information
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Religious Affairs
- Ministry of Planning
- Parliament Secretariat
- Ministry of Labour and Employment

Institutions

Within the Ministry of Health, UNFPA works with:

- Directorate General of Health Services
- Institute of Child and Mother Health
- Institute of Public Health and Nutrition
- Institute of Epidemiology control and Research

The purpose of these collaborations is to collect data and information to identify the means of action most appropriate to the local population.

Other organizations

Other partnerships are related to bilateral relationships:

- Canadian International Development Agency
- Danish Agency for Development Assistance
- UK aid from the Department For International Development
- EU
- Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning
- Netherlands
- SIDA
- World Bank

Partnerships: Religious leaders

In Bangladesh, religious leaders promote family planning. For example, imams are working as part of a nationwide UNFPA-sponsored initiative called, “Involvement of Religious Leaders in Human Resource Development”. It’s being implemented by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and UNFPA, in collaboration with the Imam Training Academy which is part of the Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh. The three main activities of the project are as follows:

- Training of senior Imams as regional trainers; so far 128 religious leaders have attended training courses enabling them to assist in the training of local Imams;
- Training Imams in each of the country's 64 districts;
- Advocacy meetings and follow-up training.

According to Shamsal Alam, Director-General of the Islamic Foundation “Imams are playing critically preventive roles in their communities by informing people ...”

The UNFPA initiative has been credited with successful involvement of Imams in the following:

- Raising awareness of the reproductive health and FP services available.
- Informing adolescent girls of the health risks of early marriage and pregnancy.
- Increasing awareness HIV/AIDS and STDs and how to prevent infections.
- Enhancing women's economic and social role in their families and communities.
- Encouraging responsible behaviour on the part of young people.

Partnerships: Maternal health

Partnerships with other United Nations organs include; WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank. In addition, partnering with local faith based communities, local NGOs and local communities will be crucial in implementing various strategies and programmes in addressing the issue of maternal health in Bangladesh.

Involving the Bangladesh government at both a local and national level will also prove key in addressing and implementing programmes and solutions for maternal health in Bangladesh. Incentivising the programme in exchange for social grants may be one key tool in affectively implementing programmes.

Resources

Bangladesh's status in terms of addressing maternal health issues are classified as “on track” by the UNFPA. This is as a result of at least a 5.5 per cent annual decline in maternal mortality ratios since 1990. However more needs to be done.

Strategy

Following the UNFPA general guidelines, the “seven billion population” issue will be dealt with through the perspective of family planning. The achieving of universal access to sexual and reproductive health, the promotion of reproductive rights, the reduction of maternal mortality and improvements regarding the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda are the key responses to tackle the challenges raised by this situation.

This specific UNFPA Programme is strictly related to MDG5, including MDG3 and MDG4. By accelerating progress towards MDG5, it seeks to advance the access to sexual and reproductive health thereby improving maternal health. Family planning is also related to MDG 4, the reduction of child mortality. In developing countries, this is an issue very close to maternal health.

More precisely, when the mother is not in good health or her right to health does not cover the “3 AQ standard”, this results in serious consequences for the rights of the child. Although the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights interpreted these criteria as not to be immediately fulfilled, Member States must take progressive measures in order to achieve such objectives. As a result, developing and non-developing countries have their own way and take their own measures to fulfil certain requirements, being the highest attainable standard of maternal health in relation to reproductive rights.

The action plan sets three objectives:

- the reduction of social barriers and the addressing of cultural ideologies surrounding 'family planning'
- The improvement of knowledge, attitude and practice of males (boys and men) towards family planning.
- The strengthening of technical support and policy guidance for traditional birth attendants on sexual and reproductive health of women.

In developing countries access to reproductive health is an issue that concerns people of all age groups; from the parents to youth and adolescents. Still, women play a key role towards information dissemination, one of the main challenges with regards to family planning. However, some countries represent serious issues concerning the human rights of women who are still seeking equality in relation to their life choices, both in private and public spheres.

With regard to Bangladesh – our country of our concern - it is important to say that there are two key issues related to this research. One is the young generation, which covers one third of the entire population. This group will be targeted and specifically included in the UNFPA action plan.

Cultural relativism is the second main obstacle to equal access to family planning. It is important to say how this aspect plays a key role in an equitable roll-out of a global plan of action to be achieved in the same manner within every region of the world. Recognizing cultural diversity throughout different regions of the world should be our key perspective.

It is crucial to take account of culture in the implementation of human rights, above all when considering a woman's right to health and their freedom to plan a family. In a general sense, the challenge of family planning will be engaged through three aspects:

- local communities in rural areas will be directly addressed
- collaboration will be sought with faith based organizations and religious leaders
- governments will be UNFPA's main reference

UNFPA plan of action

In order to fulfil its mandate, UNFPA will aim to achieve three main objectives, each including a number of identified activities targeted at all three levels of organization, the macro (national), meso (community) and micro (individual) levels.

These activities are linked to the strategies of the UNFPA 2011 Annual Report, and are seen as areas where UNFPA can provide a significant and meaningful contribution in working with the government of Bangladesh to achieve its 2025 goal for reaching replacement level fertility and stabilizing its population growth. This new draft also builds on the UNFPA and Bangladeshi Government's existing work plan for family planning and their implemented and accomplished activities during this time span.

The objectives of the UNFPA plan of action to improve access and uptake of family planning in Bangladesh thereby improving maternal health of Bangladeshi women for the year 2012 to 2013 are;

1. To reduce social barriers and address cultural ideologies surrounding 'family planning'.
2. To improve the knowledge, attitude and practice of males (boys and men) in Bangladesh towards family planning.
3. To strengthen technical support and policy guidance for traditional birth attendants in Bangladesh on sexual and reproductive health of women.

Objective 1: To reduce social barriers and address cultural ideologies surrounding 'family planning'

Activities

Macro: By national advocacy campaigns using every type of mass media, visual, audio and written messages for mass sensitization and public education on the dire need for family planning in the country.

Meso: Involvement of NGOs, religious and traditional stakeholders as channels for sectoral validation and targeting different demographics.

Micro: Individual and couple counselling provided by existing domiciliary services tailored towards personal socio-cultural barriers with a focus on newly married couples.

Expected result: Breaking through existing traditional stereotypes and enhancing cultural acceptance of matters relating to sexual and reproductive health as Bangladesh citizens enhance their knowledge on family planning by readily having access to relevant information

Benchmark: Public saturation with information and messages on sexual and reproductive health: Successfully communicating to Bangladeshi citizens beyond socio-cultural barriers on the dire need for awareness of family planning.

Evaluation: A six-monthly random sampling using focus groups and interviews to identify any change in views and attitudes of Bangladeshi citizens towards family planning,

acknowledging the input of different stakeholders such as religious and traditional leaders, healthcare workers and political office holders.

Objective 2: To improve the knowledge, attitude and practice of males (boys and men) in Bangladesh towards family planning

Activities

Macro: Influence national legislation on educational development plan to include mandatory school sessions on culturally sensitive family planning messages.

Meso: Development of campaigns using the mass media , plays, road shows: the organization of incentive-driven, gender-specific workshops and gatherings, using social marketing skills like pop/cultural role models/mentor figures, brand recognition strategies to influence the education of males (especially young adolescent boys) in Bangladesh on family planning

Micro: Strategic establishment of information / outreach centres in rural areas (for example near the local stream, market or worship centres) where information will be made readily available for the maximum engagement of 'hard to reach' individuals

Expected result: Pre-identification of needs of males in Bangladesh with regards to family planning and Evidence-based change in knowledge, attitude and practices of males in Bangladesh towards family planning: a reflective increase in interest and attendance levels, uptake and feedback on family planning programmes and activities.

Benchmark: Maximum number of schools that successfully take up the mandatory sessions on family planning and the level of attendance and quality of feedback gotten from all such related events

Evaluation: A six-monthly cross sectional survey on knowledge, attitude and practice towards family planning of randomly selected samples of Bangladeshi citizens.

Objective 3: To support in strengthening technical support and policy guidance for traditional birth attendants in Bangladesh on sexual and reproductive health of women with a focus on family planning.

Activities

Macro: Facilitate a national policy towards a 'professionalization' of the highly popular practice of traditional birth attendants in Bangladesh which largely entails the act of 'home child birthing' but incorporating into it the science of sexual and reproductive health, centred initially on family planning. Development of national training programmes tailored to the beliefs and practice of the TBAs in Bangladesh and subsequent certification of the same, concurrently putting in place a two to three years re-evaluation and validation process.

Meso: Replication of national training programmes at regional / provincial levels with advocacy channelled through the heads of the traditional birth attendants (TBA) 'professional' bodies and Bangladeshi traditional women leaders, allowing for flexibility in

the negotiable areas of programme design to encourage uptake of programmes at this level.

Micro: Facilitate the roles of health inspectors to include routine door-to-door monitoring and verification exercises of programme participation by the TBAs designed to 'blacklist' non-participants.

Expected results: Establish a 'good practice' framework to enhance the 'child birthing' capacity of the TBAs, ensuring accessibility to materials relevant to their tasks and new trends in women's health.

Benchmark: Maximum number of TBAs that are successfully trained and certified by the programme and reflected as a percentage reduction in fertility rates / child and maternal mortality ratios.

Evaluation: Establish an open channel (360 degrees) feedback mechanism from respondents including, but not limited to, the TBAs or the women who receive these services. Evidence-based statistics on fertility rate, child and maternal mortality ratios.

Evaluation of family planning programme

The evaluation analytical process of the UNFPA requires that:

1. The system of objectives, standards and specific indicators (quantitative, qualitative and efficiency indicators) for each activity will be feasibly built up in order to create an appropriate and accurate monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
2. Monitoring and evaluation with the participation of all stakeholders will be developed in order to assure the project objectives are achieved, including the implementation observation, recommendations and initiatives to reach the proposed targets.
3. Partners and UNFPA will monitor the progress of the programme activities in order to get updated information as well as to provide necessary adjustments.
4. Partner's Project Management Board will send financial statements and project outputs to UNFPA. UNFPA shall assist the agency to finalize those statements in compliance with plans and regulations provided by the UNFPA.
5. After evaluation, recommendations will be formulated for continuing, expanding, redesigning, or terminating a programme or project.

Bibliography

Clark, J., Yount, K. M., & Rochat, R. Men's involvement in family planning in rural Bangladesh. *Journal of biosocial science* (2008), 40(6), 815-40.

ESCR Committee General Comment No 14 "The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (Art 12)", 11 August 2000, Document E/C. 12/2000/4. 3AQ Standards stands for "Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality".

Islam, M. A., Padmadas, S. S., & Smith, P. W. F. Men's approval of family planning in Bangladesh. *Journal of biosocial science* (2006), 38(2), 247-59.

Khuda, Barkat. *The Bangladesh Family Planning Programme: Achievements, Gaps, and the Way Forward*. UNFPA (2010)

Minca M. *Midwifery in Bangladesh: In-depth country analysis. The State of the World's Midwifery, Bangladesh* (2011)

Millennium Development Goals, *Bangladesh Progress Report* (2011)

NIPORT, *Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011 (preliminary report)*. (April 2012)

Osmani, S. *Towards Achieving the Right to Health: The Case of Bangladesh*. *Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies* (2010), XXXIII (June).

UNFPA, *Annual Report: Delivering Results in a World of Seven Billion*. (2011), <www.unfpa.org> accessed 11 July 2012

UNFPA, Bangladesh: Government of Bangladesh
http://www.unfpabangladesh.org/php/partners_gob.php Accessed on 09/07/2012

UNFPA, *Religious Leaders Promote Reproductive Health and Family Planning*. (2005)

UNFPA, *The Bangladesh Family Programme, Icomp* (2010)

WHO, *Bangladesh and Family Planning: An Overview*. (2003)

THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES:
A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

A World Meteorological Organization (WMO) facilitated initiative to address the challenges and opportunities of living in a world of seven billion.

Introduction

Seven billion people and global climate change are vital challenges underlying global discussions on policy and governance. As the population is multiplying, unplanned urbanization, migration to coastal areas in the search for more economic opportunities, groundwater exploitation, unsustainable water and land usage and unsustainable agricultural practices are emerging as burgeoning issues on the ecosystem which will be exacerbated by the impacts of global climate change.

Whether anthropogenic or not, people who live in coastal areas, sloped land areas, as well as unplanned settlements are directly affected by uncertainties in the weather. When people are affected by such natural hazards, it creates refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP) and additional costs on national budgets. And so its impacts extend to trans-scale and trans-border issues. The World Climate Conference 3 (2009, Geneva) recommended the creation of a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) that would link the producers of climate data and information with the potential users of this information to enable better planning and mitigation of the potential impacts of natural disasters.

Climate change is not a new phenomenon. It is a process that affects the condition of the earth-atmosphere system. However, the anthropogenic impact on climate is increased as a result of man-made changes to the environment. On the other hand, the dynamic and intrinsic quality of the environment is changing. In the academic research as well as in policy making mechanisms, climate change and its impact on the world are being discussed in two streams that are either climate change adaptation or climate change mitigation. As noted in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, climate change is the variation in the environment in an extended period, of at least 10 years.

The global average surface temperature is estimated to have increased by 0.1 °C since 1961 but with larger regional variations. The average temperature increase in the North Polar and Alaska regions is estimated at 1.0 °C to 3.5 °C in the period 1971 to 2004. The consequences of global warming include shorter freezing seasons of lakes and rivers, glacier melting, decreases in permafrost extent, increases in soil temperatures and borehole temperature profiles, and a rise in sea levels (IPCC 2007:32-33). Climate change is the result of either natural variability or anthropogenic causes.

Consequently, some parts of the world are experiencing desertification and evaporation of water that remained in inland rivers and lakes. Extreme weather conditions all around the world cause socio-economic vulnerabilities. Data and information on weather and climate conditions are essential for the stability of life. The, GFCS would therefore be an essential mechanism to address the issue of the seven billion people in the world in terms of climate change scenarios and extreme weather conditions.

Areas of consideration

1. Food and agriculture

The effects of carbon dioxide enrichment, temperature increases, changes of water availability, water release from glacier melting and the timing of rainfall and the effect of the agriculture industry all impact upon the Earth's ability to produce food.

In order to help agriculture society adapt to climate variability and climate change, the GFCS aims to improve information exchange between the climate and agriculture and food security communities. Its four-way communication between climate service providers, climate and agricultural scientists, agricultural extension services and the decision-making community will serve as an information channel for the farming community (including farmer associations, NGOs, village leaders, etc).

Climate services are required for reliable contextual information on all aspects of the agricultural process, including agriculture planning, spatial information system mapping and climate information systems. Agricultural resources will be characterized in terms of climate, environment and ecosystems by agro-ecological zone. Satellite and ground information will be the base of a spatial information system and the climate information collated will be useful for managing farm operations such as seasonal forecasting and crop simulation.

In particular, communication becomes a more important issue when considering the distribution of information analyzed by experts. Diverse strategies such as the use of the broadcast media and mobile phones, especially social media and the internet will be used in order to promote participation in the regional level. Some examples such as Uganda show how media communication can be useful. From now on, we are going to develop the ideas on GFCS by selecting two key issues in agriculture.

Agro-ecosystem and biodiversity

Between biotic and non biotic elements in a defined area (biotic elements – plants, insects, microbes and other living organism, non biotic elements: weather components such as temperature, relative humidity, wind sunshine, rain and soil). Each of these elements has an influence on the distribution and population of living organisms. Secondly, all biotic and non biotic disturbances in one element disturb the whole balance. Therefore the task of farmers is to maintain the natural balance among elements in the agro-ecosystem, ensuring a good environment for the crop to grow well.

A healthy ecosystem has a high degree of diversity, both with regard to the number of species and to genetic diversity among individuals within one population. In practice it means that we can see various kinds of plants and animals. If we do not find these variations in an agro-ecosystem there is a problem caused by one of the following reasons:

1. Too many pesticides are being used that killed off beneficial insects
2. There is not enough food for natural enemies. A variety of plants is needed to maintain the population of these natural enemies. The more diverse the vegetation in an agro-ecosystem the more diverse also the natural enemy

- populations, hence the more likely that pest populations will be controlled naturally;
3. Soil texture does not support the life of earthworms and soil insects. So the soil becomes hard and/or short of oxygen. The disappearance of soil organisms will cause further deterioration of the soil.

Agriculture is highly dependent on climatic factors such as temperature, rainfall, soil moisture and solar radiation. Climate change can affect agricultural production in several ways: by changes in climatic factors, including the frequency and severity of extreme events, the increase in production due to the fertilizing effect of carbon through increased concentrations of atmospheric CO₂, by changing the intensity of harvesting due to a change in the number of degree-days of growth, or by modifying the occurrence and severity of diseases and pests, among other effects.

Studies based on general circulation models have shown that the productivity of various crops tends to decrease in some regions and increase in others, such that production in tropical and subtropical areas, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa due to large areas of arid and semi-arid and its dependence on agriculture, tends to be more affected compared to temperate regions.

About biodiversity we could say that some animal populations, especially those with a limited geographic distribution, specific habitats or small populations may be unable to adapt to changes in climate, there is a risk of extinction mainly in species with low reproductive capacity, and adaptation dispersion. The GFCS provides climate information and products for use in different agro-ecosystems. The GFCS may also help to save lives in famine-plagued areas and enhance water and nutrient management, thereby helping to protect the environment.

Crop phenology

Crop phenology refers to the stages of growth of plants. Growth is the irreversible increment of dry matter of a cell, tissue, plant during a certain time interval. Development of a plant proceeds according to an internal programme by which equal or different organs – one after the other during its lifecycle – are produced and finally die. At different stages of development, crops require a certain amount of moisture, sunlight, humidity, solar radiation, and wind speed. Climate information systems effectively communicate the relevant characteristics to farmers.

The different zonal levels for temperature are characterized by how hot it gets in different regions. Temperate regions on the latitude of Western Europe are characterized by at least four months of average temperature below 10C. Sub-tropic regions like Latin America and the Caribbean have less than four months of temperature below 10C. The different regional levels indicate the difference due to elevation or continental climate. In certain climates the climbing temperature can negatively affect yields.

The climate information systems have contributed to early warning and preventive response in agricultural regions around the world. In Australia, Fiji, and Mozambique, countries highly dependent on agriculture, the use of climate information to farmers is of extreme importance. These countries have been listed as priority area case studies for the GFCS. In all soils, the water content affects the yields of crops. In the case of Australia, the impact of dry years on the agricultural sector can be devastating. The

GFCS ensures that through effective climate information, warnings can be communicated to vulnerable communities. Rainfall is also affecting production of sugarcane in Fiji, where the amount affects not only the quantity, but also the quality produced. Flood alert systems are important in relation water used for irrigation in Mozambique. Climate information is helpful for production estimates and identifying the length of the season.

The GFCS has an important effect on agricultural risk prevention and response. Food security can be divided into four major categories with their own implications for a given country. Availability (production), access (political/social), stability (environment/political), and utilization (nutrition/social/economic). Climate services can benefit these categories in the short and long term.

For short term weather information, it may be useful for a farmer to know if it will rain so that fertilizer use could be altered, for example. In dealing with climate, seasonal forecasts can be made for the next three months. WMO Member countries use data collected over many years to make future crop models. Recently in East Africa, the Regional Climate Outlook Forecast helped to connect meteorologists with the user sector. Users such as agriculture departments, fisherman, ministers, extensionists, and farmers receive this information for decision making.

One notable success happened in Lake Victoria, Uganda. In this project 1,000 fishermen were given a daily weather forecast for a period of six months and it has helped to reduce the annual death toll of 5,000 due to drowning on the lake. At the end of the period considered, 80 to 90 per cent of the farmers rated this information as favourable. The functioning of GFCS depends on how the meteorological services are carried out in the field. This means that for a specific country the ministries, extension agents, and farmers need to be working together. Sustained training of extensionists and farmers and feedback from all sectors will be important for the future of GFCS.

2. Health

Current scientific discoveries have indicated that climate changes influence the spread and occurrence of diseases globally, with a special focus on the following public health problems: infectious diseases (malaria, dengue fever, rift valley fever, meningitis, cholera, yellow fever, etc) , non-communicable diseases, health risks associated with natural disasters, increase in the risk of malnutrition and heat-wave related deaths.

Within the GFCS, the WMO has worked closely with the WHO on building a “Climate and Health Atlas” to show how climate information can be used to promote health and reduce the burden of disease . Efforts have been made to correlate climate change and forecasts with diseases patterns and epidemiological data at country and regional levels.

So far significant progress has been made in the case of malaria (the Malaria Early Warning Programme), meningitis (MERIT) and health problems related to flood-control and heat-wave impact control.

Malaria

According to the WHO 300 to 500 million cases of malaria occur worldwide with about two million people being killed each year, 80 per cent of which occur in Sub-Saharan Africa. Climate change may affect the range and transmission of malaria, generating the need for public health practitioners to have access to a reliable system to determine peak times for malaria transmissions based on correlations between forecasts and malaria outbreaks.

The Malaria Early Warning Programme, implemented successfully in countries like Botswana and Tanzania, consists of correlating climate change, forecasts and malaria outbreaks, enabling governments to gain time to adequately prepare the supplies needed in case of a malaria outbreak. For example, in the case of Botswana, the system can predict the likelihood of a malaria epidemic with a lead time of three to four months. These positive examples can be used to facilitate the integration of GFCS as a mandatory component of malaria control programmes developed at global, regional and local level.

Current meningitis control activities consist of an early identification of epidemics followed by a rapid deployment of polysaccharide vaccines. Climate-driven early warning systems could be used to provide longer lead-times for initiating response in case of a meningitis outbreak. An example of advancement in this area is MERIT (Meningitis Environmental Risk Information Technologies) a project developed by the WHO and partners in the “Meningitis Belt in Africa”, that is used to identify areas with high risks of meningitis epidemics based on climate information in order to coordinate vaccination campaigns.

Flood control

Populations exposed to disastrous weather may experience (apart from physical injuries) immediate mental health consequences, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder. The stress, anxiety and depression experienced in case of disasters are associated with development of stress-related cardiomyopathy. And damage to hospitals and disruption

in health care delivery puts populations with chronic conditions at risk for disease exacerbations.

Although natural phenomena cannot be prevented, early warnings enable us to foresee them and provide crucial time to save lives. Early monitoring and flood warning systems have shown great success in China, where the number of deaths from flooding has fallen from an estimated two million in events of 1959 to 577 over the entire decade from 2000 to 2009. Weather forecast data only have limited value unless effectively communicated to populations at risk. Response procedures familiar to the communities need to be established and the bodies issuing warnings need to be trusted, so that warnings are heeded.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Climate change itself may directly and indirectly increase the incidence of NCDs. For example the risk of cardiovascular disease may increase directly due to extreme temperatures and air pollution and indirectly via changes to available food supplies.

Heatwaves directly contribute to high mortality predominantly among people with pre-existing medical conditions, outside workers and the elderly. With more people living in cities than ever before, “urban heat islands” will affect the health of a higher number of city-dwellers.

WMO and WHO are developing guidance on implementation of heat health early warning systems to enhance joint efforts by public health professionals and climate specialists. This kind of close collaboration was established in 2004 between The National Health Watch Institute and Météo-France which provides real-time weather and health data forecasts. Looking for example at the French Heat-Health Watch Warning System, national action plans should be set up to increase public safety during heat waves.

Successful implementation of GFCS will help to identify urban areas where the heat concentrates, notify local councils of impending heatwaves and target resources to vulnerable populations living in hot spots. The heat patterns also highlight the importance for urban planners to implement measures that will mitigate urban heat islands.

Research evidence further indicates that warmer and drier climates result in high ozone exposure, which increases respiratory tract irritation and chronic pulmonary disease hospitalizations. Climate change is likely to expose previously unexposed populations to allergenic pollen species and increase the frequency of forest fires which are linked to reduced lung function in asthmatic patients. To strengthen the preventive activities of health systems, we need monitoring techniques to evaluate air quality and aeroallergens concentrations, to develop early warning systems to anticipate harmful environmental exposures and provide timely alerts to populations at risk.

Resulting recommendations for GFCS

1. More focus on local and country level implementation to ensure the final end user will actually benefit from the development of this system, by taking advantage of

- locally created networks to reach the target population (involving public health professionals, using hospitals to promote the programme)
2. When defining a vulnerable country, priority should be given to inequality levels within that country and not only to gross or national indicators of economic growth
 3. Collaborations with other public health agencies should be encouraged (European Centre for Disease Control, Centre for Disease Control (USA))
 4. Active monitoring of the effects of the programme in terms of real benefits to the prevention of diseases related to climate change and health prevention strategies
 5. Actions to ensure the reliability of both climate and health data at country level

3. Disaster risk reduction

The IPCC has reached a consensus that the global climate is changing. In order to reduce the risk posed by climate-related natural disasters, we must be prepared and adapt. As noted in a WMO fact sheet:

“Enhanced climate information in support of disaster risk reduction is a vital tool that can help communities respond to these growing threats. Shifting from emergency response to preparedness and prevention strategies, as called for in the Hyogo Framework for Action, requires the use of climate predictions and information to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks.”

Thanks to improved weather and climate services such as early warning systems we have been able to dramatically decrease the amount of people killed when a disaster strikes. On the other hand, we see that economic losses are increasing. Disaster risk reduction was chosen as one of the first four priority sectors in GFCS because natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and more intense. WMO Member countries provide vital coordination for reducing and preparing for these climate-change related risks. In order to do this though, the framework must facilitate closer collaboration at all stakeholder levels including national, regional and local governments, NGOs, and other UN organizations.

In our world of seven billion people, demographic increases are resulting in greater pressures on the natural ecosystem and increasing vulnerability of populations. We have identified three groups that are at-risk for climate-related disasters: residents of coastal regions (where population growth is relatively high), cities (in light of the fact that by 2050 around two-thirds of the population will be urban-based) and farmers (in light of erratic rain patterns and the increasing intensity of droughts).

Global climate services must be harnessed to address the growing needs of these at-risk populations. In the following section, we will discuss how the WMO is currently working in each region of the world to provide climate services that help stakeholders reduce their risk to climate-related disasters. We will then discuss ways in which the Global Framework could be used to improve coordination between stakeholders.

Our objective is to make global climate services more responsive to the needs of all stakeholders. This includes groups such as farmers (helping them to better prepare for droughts), city planners (building infrastructure to withstand future climate-related disasters) and legislators (providing them with accurate climate predictions that serve as evidence in order to gain political support for making available funding to invest in DRR).

Current WMO coordination activity between stakeholders

In Viet Nam, the government and local actors are taking advantage of climate change modelling in coordination with the WMO. Such information is allowing Viet Nam to improve its preparedness for floods, to which it is especially prone in coastal areas. Through coordination among the government, international donors and the WMO, mangrove restoration has been introduced as a disaster prevention strategy.

In Nairobi, Kenya the WMO has identified risk factors for flash floods as rapid growth of informal settlements, weak building construction; settlements built near rivers and

blocked drainage areas. It is therefore working as a coordinator to advocate for risk management adaptation via strengthening buildings, improving drainage and sewage, establishing early warning systems, and reducing poverty.

In the United States and the Caribbean, the WMO has identified the risk factors for hurricane damage as population growth, increasing property value and increased storm surges with rising sea levels. Risk management adaptation methods advocated by the WMO include better forecasting, warning systems, stricter building codes and regional risk pooling.

Following recent heat waves in Europe, France introduced a new mechanism relying on a four-colour scheme system reflecting different risk levels, with a 24-hour frame combining satisfactory forecasting reliability with sufficient advance warning for action. These forecasts are linked to the meteorological criteria in the form of “Vigilance Map,” developed in tandem with the WMO. Information is transmitted simultaneously to civil defence authorities, national operators, the media and the general public. As the general public receives clear risk information from the authorities accompanied by safety guidelines, it can also play a role in ensuring its security.

Alternatives and recommendations

We see the greatest challenge that the GFCS faces with regards to DRR is making climate services accessible to local stakeholders in the field. The WMO could, for example, work more closely with UNISDR on the Resilient Cities campaign, which promotes local engagement with communities. This campaign is partnered already with ILO, UNDP, and others. We also recommend that the WMO extend programmes such as the Roving Seminars which have so far been a success in Ethiopia.

Another gap in the framework is that there is not a clear plan for emphasizing the return on investments. We know that for every \$1 invested in DRR, \$7 is saved on average in recovery efforts. In order to influence legislators to make funding available and coordinate more with other agencies in disaster preparedness, a concrete business case must be made for how GFCS can reduce the cost of DRR.

The GFCS aims to provide not just governments but stakeholders at all levels with the climate products they need to mitigate and reduce the risk of climate-related disasters. From the implementation plan, however, the approach remains very top-down. The WMO should search for more creative ways to find other points of entry.

We also know that by 2050, around two-thirds of the world’s population will be living in cities. In light of this rapid urbanization, the WMO should be ready to provide information about areas at risk for future flooding to land management and urban planning sectors, building frameworks similar to France Vigilance.

4. Water

The continuous growth of global population has led to an increase in per capita demand for household, industrial and agricultural consumption. Exploitation, misuse and mismanagement of water are often causes of the high demand for water and can be listed as follows:

1. Rapid depletion of fossil groundwater reserves, aquifers
2. Lowering water tables
3. Large scale salinisation
4. Water pollution
5. A decline in cheaply available water resources
6. Harm to the ecosystem

In addition, as a result of social and political discourses or political or social mobilizations, there is public resistance to the construction of dams, as well as to move publicly acceptable water pricing policy.

The GFCS has identified key areas, principles, gaps and tools to enhance or deal with effective and efficient water governance and management. At the international level, WMO collaborates with UNESCO, UN Water, GWP and FAO. Water is recognized as a vital thematic area within the inter-agency mechanism of UN Water. In this GFCS will have an input role to coordinate the international and regional bodies which stand for efficient and effective, as well as sustainable, water management.

The WMO Executive Council has identified that GFCS projects can assist with research, climate services and water management in the most vulnerable countries for extreme weather and climate change. The programme has been framed in two sets of projects for making cooperation between hydrological and climatologically episteme communities within the User Interface Platform. Within this there are five projects based on transboundary rivers in water-scarce regions and five projects based on river basins highly dependent on snow and glacier melting water sources.

However, this working group has identified major gaps in both of these recommended projects:

1. Transboundary aquifers are not recognized. It seems mainstream water resources management.
2. Glaciers and snow melt are in themselves a transboundary issue.

The GFCS project will address this through six vital programmes.

1. The Global Network on Water and Development Information for Arid Lands
2. The International Flood Initiative
3. The Integrated Water Resources Management
4. The Associated Programme on Flood Management
5. The Integrated Drought Management Programme
6. The Water Climate and Development Programme for Africa

Within this, the main outcomes of the water governance and management process in GFCS should be:

1. The assessment of the quantity and quality of water resources
2. The mitigation of water-related hazards
3. Integrated water resource management
4. A water-related monitoring system

Recommendations

1. Consideration on transboundary aquifers and groundwater resources inside countries

While groundwater has traditionally supplied a significant portion of the water that humans use for drinking, agricultural and industrial purposes, it has still not been a mainstream topic in environmental governance. Groundwater makes up one third of the 2.5 per cent portion of the accessible water on earth. The other two thirds are made up from frozen ice caps or glaciers which are inaccessible as fresh water. Surface water, such as lakes and rivers, is a relatively small portion (Dunning 2010:2). Samir Puri (2002) mentions that 90 per cent of aquifer waters are accessible fresh water (Puri 2002:37).

Moreover, UNEP reports that around one-third of the world's population, about two billion people, rely on groundwater. Between 600 and 700 km³ is extracted from shallow aquifers annually (UNEP 2002:153). The UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) evaluates contemporary sectoral access to groundwater as 65 per cent irrigation, 25 per cent drinking water and 10 per cent industry. However, the traditional separation between surface water and groundwater in water management generates fundamental communication obstacles among technical experts, policy developers, decision makers, operational managers and water users (Cap-Net 2010:9).

Like surface water resources, especially transboundary lakes and rivers, groundwater sources (which are scientifically called aquifers) spread beyond geopolitical boundaries (UNESCO 2001:7). Therefore, within a country or between countries, aquifers which are located in the pore spaces of rock formations sprawl over a vast area underneath the Earth's surface. Yoram Eckstein and Gabriel E. Eckstein's (2005) indicate that transboundary groundwater management has emerged as a new theme within the last ten years in water management discourse (Eckstein and Eckstein 2005; 679).

2. The institutional set up in small islands surveillance system for climate service and water related climate hazards for the most vulnerable countries in climate change scenarios and extreme weather conditions

Small islands are the most vulnerable geographical inhabitants in extreme weather conditions, as well as climate change. In particular, the major impacts can be listed as rising sea levels, changing precipitation and storm patterns, and increasing air and sea surface temperatures. Most weather changes and climate changes directly hit the island communities which stand on the doorstep of the natural hazards (Lazrus 2012:285). Technically and economically, these people are extremely poor.

The lack of technical capacities or zero technological capabilities lead to dependency on adjacent countries which have robust meteorological services. However, the problem is some islands are located far away from these resources centres. The lack of communication does not support getting information immediately after an early warning. A strong mechanism and institutional set up should be implemented within these small islands for surveillance systems, climate services and water related hazards.

3. Applications within the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) framework

IWRM is the approach used in many parts of the world for effective and efficient water management. Rather than sectoral management, IWRM allows better coordination with all stakeholders who deal with water related areas. The GFCS also has to coordinate with IWRM for achieving common goals for better water management, as well as sound weather and climate services.

Global Framework for Climate Services: Governance and implementation

Governance: Status quo and problematic issues

The plenary organ of the GFCS (or the Framework) consists of the delegates of all interested governments and it is officially called “the Intergovernmental Board on the Global Framework for Climate Services” (the Board). The work of the Board will be supplemented by a Partner Advisory Committee, an executive body and a WMO-hosted Secretariat. The secretariat is accountable both to the chair of the Board and to the WMO. The WMO Congress will hold an extraordinary session in October 2012 to finalize the governance and implementation plan of the Framework.

One of the major issues to deal with is the participation of stakeholders beyond the Framework’s members. This issue plays out in the composition and working modes of both the Partner Advisory Committee and the executive body. Questions include which organizations and agents should have a voice and which degree of influence they should hold. The division of labour and responsibility between the Board, the executive body and the Secretariat must also be clarified.

Finally, there is the issue of equitable opportunities of participation for developed and developing countries. In concrete terms, this is the question of whether and to which degree to fund the participation in Board sessions for delegates from least developed countries (LDCs). This is an issue that must be balanced against the desire to channel the maximum possible amount of resources directly towards the implementation of the GFCS.

Governance: Recommendations

In light of the issues mentioned above, we have developed some recommendations for the Framework’s governance. First, we recommend that the role of the Secretariat be limited to a purely administrative one, clearly separated from the functions of the executive body which will be discussed in the following section.

We suggest slightly curtailing the Secretariat’s functions compared to what is currently envisioned. In particular, the functions foreseen under 3. (c) and 3.(g), managing projects and provision of technical support, should be transferred to the executive body and its substructures. Second, the Partner Advisory Committee (Committee) should be composed of the most relevant UN specialized agencies, international organizations, national and international NGOs, private sector organizations, as well as potential other stakeholders who are able and willing to make meaningful contributions to the Framework’s development or implementation.

We recommend that the Committee’s internal structure be arranged around the four broad themes of the GFCS: water, health, food and agriculture, and disaster risk reduction. The four areas should be under the supervision of the relevant UN specialized agency, with the exception of ‘water’ which would be overseen by the WMO. The Committee would to some extent function as a shadow Board, the meetings of the Committee only just anticipating those of the Board. One delegate for each of the four thematic areas will attend the Board meeting.

These thematic delegates should be given the same speaking and voting rights on the Board as regular members. This ensures that the Board may profit from expert thematic input and relevant non-member entities are given a degree of influence over governance issues, whilst also safeguarding members' right to self-determination. In addition to its delegates' attendance at Board meetings, individual organizations on the Partner Advisory Committee may submit written statements and recommendations to the Board for consideration.

This would give dissenting voices within the Committee an opportunity to express divergent opinions and concerns at the governance level. Third, regarding the participation of delegates from the LDCs, the GFCS trust fund should subsidize their attendance at the first Board meeting. Subsequently, LDCs must demonstrate a certain level of implementation of the Framework in order to qualify for continued subsidies. Also the option of holding meetings electronically should be kept in mind in the long run, should a time arrive at which the Framework's governance and implementation has gained momentum and is running smoothly.

Implementation: Status quo and problematic issues

Establishing a governance framework for the GFCS is closely linked to the question of implementation. In its current conception, the Framework foresees that Members are primarily responsible for implementation, with the GFCS structures providing technical assistance in some instances. Following WMO working modes, members' meteorological organizations (or equivalent) are the default choices for organizations in charge of implementation. Other relevant UN entities, NGOs and other national and international organizations should contribute to delivering climate services. Respective capacities are yet to be fully clarified. Congress will further discuss these matters in October 2012.

The Framework's implementation plan is still in its conception phase. At present, we have identified two main issues. Firstly, there is an acute lack of coordination at the implementation level, the various agents to be involved in the GFCS need to be provided with a clear framework that clarifies and coordinates their respective mandates in relation to climate services. A particular concern here is that due to the Framework's global nature, there is a real danger that solutions developed at the international level may not always reach their intended beneficiaries at the grassroots level.

Implementation: Recommendations

Our main recommendation in this section concerns the creation of a permanent Executive Committee, reporting to the Board, with a system of substructures. We recommend that the substructures follow a matrix management structure (see figure below) which would incorporate both the Framework's four thematic areas as well as its four functional clusters.

A second recommendation regards the type of support the GFCS provides its members. We believe that alongside the technical support envisaged in the Framework, the GFCS would profit from also incorporating communications support facilities. The Framework hinges on its beneficiaries being aware of and receptive to its recommendations and services, which requires an effective communication strategy down to the individual.

The work of Development Media International, already in collaboration with the WHO, may be a useful model for some scenarios.

Conclusion

In the Draft 1 EC-64/Doc 2012, it can be observed that WMO still has to play the central role rather than co-management with other UN and non UN agencies that have responsibility for climate services and natural disaster management. It is envisaged that a central body is more likely to ensure that the GFCS is implemented effectively.

Sources

Cap-Net (2010) Groundwater management in IWRM, International Network for Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management, UNDP

Dunning, C, 2010, Water Availability to be Enhanced through Focus on National Water Resources Assessments, Water and Environment News Journal, IAEA Issue 27, pp 2-5

Eckstein, Yoram and Eckstein, Gabriel E (2005). 'Transboundary Aquifers: Conceptual Models for Development of International Law' GROUNDWATER, Vol. 43, No. 5 pp.679–690, DOI: 10.1111/j.1745-6584.2005.00098

Friel, S., Bowen, K., Campbell-Lendrum D. et al.: Climate Change, Noncommunicable Diseases, and Development. The Relationships and Common Policy Opportunities. *Annu. Rev. Public Health* 2011. 32:133–47

Lazrus, Heather,2012, "Sea Change: Island Communities and Climate Change",*Annual Review of Anthropology* (online view) pp. 285-301

O'Brien, Karen L. and Leichenko, Robin M. 2000, "Double Exposure: assessing the impacts of climate change within the context of economic globalization" *Global Environmental Change* 10, Elsevier Science Ltd. 221-232.

Puri, Samir (2002). "Issue in developing co-operation for the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers", In: Sasika Castelein and J. Bogardi , *From Conflict to Cooperation in international water resources management: Challenge and Opportunities*. UNESCO-IHP pp. 37-48

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,(2007), "Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report" IPCC Plenary XXVII session, pp 26-73

UNESCO. 2001. Proceedings of the International Conference on Regional aquifer systems in arid zones -Managing non-renewable resources, Tripoli, Libya, 20–24 November 1999. Paris, UNESCO.Technical Documents in Hydrology No. 42.

UNEP,2002, State of the environment and policy retrospective 1972-2002,Global Environment Outlook 3, UNEP,

WHO: Improving Climate Services for the Health Sector. Background report for the Inter-Agency Consultation Meeting on Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) User Interface Platform (UIP) and Implementation Plan

WMO and WHO Factsheet #2: Climate information for protecting human health.

WHO: Improving Climate Services for the Health Sector. Background report for the Inter-Agency Consultation Meeting on Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) User Interface Platform (UIP) and Implementation Plan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

UNCTAD WORKING GROUP

Marta JASINSKA
Master in International Trade and Development
University of Adelaide

Li XUEOU
MA International Studies and Diplomacy
The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Rebecca MCHENRY
Masters of International Development
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Louise MOONEY
Masters in Management
UCD Micheal Smurfit Business School Dublin

Maria Jimena MORALES-VELASCO
Pluridisciplinary Master Americas Politics, Spaces and Societies
University of Rennes II, Rennes, France

Andrew NEWTON
Legal Practice Course
The College of Law, Manchester

Francisco NORONHA
Second Cycle of Studies in Law (Master) in the area of expertise of Legal and
Administrative Sciences
University of Porto, Faculty of Law, Portugal

Beatrice PARTEL
Doctoral Programme in Philosophy
University of Innsbruck, Austria

Sabine PITTELOUD
Master in Geography, historic and economic orientation
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Miha PONGRAC
Master of Social Sciences in International Security and Law
University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Adán PRIETO VENTURA
French Language and Civilization
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Manuel RODRIGUEZ
Master of Science in Management

Swiss Business School (SBS) Kloten-Zurich, Switzerland

Ijeoma Pamela UGWUEZE
International Law and Development
University of Nottingham, UK

UNDP WORKING GROUP

Caroline COULIE
Master in European Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Europe, Natolin campus, Warsaw, Poland

Doina Anca CRETU
Masters in International Studies, Specialization: International History and Politics
Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development, Geneva, Switzerland

Katarzyna CZAJKOWSKA
PhD student at the Faculty of International Relations of Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski
Kracow Academy, Kracow, Poland

Dinda LAILA SUKMA
Master of Standardization, Social Regulation and Sustainable Development
University of Geneva Geneva, Switzerland

Jean Roland DJEDJI
Master Economic Engineering and Business
University Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble France

Karine E SILVA
L.L.M. Globalisation and Law
Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Sandra EKDAWI
Master of Science
University of Toronto, Canada

Bunmi ENIOLA
Environmental Biogeochemistry
Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Luiz Felipe FREYRE COSTA OLIVEIRA
Masters in International Law
University Panthéon-Assas Paris II, France

Gianfranco Gaetano GENTILE
Catholic University del Sacro Cuore Milan, Italy

Oma Janessa GUATNO
MA Social Science (Policy and Human Services)
RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Majd HAJALI
Master in International Affairs
Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon.

Stephen HENDERSON
Master of International Relations
The University of Melbourne (Victoria, Australia)

Francis HERD
Master in Political Studies
University of the Witwatersrand

Amandine HUET
LLM in International Development Law and Human Rights University of Warwick

Ricardo SANTOS
International Relations Master Programme
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

UNECE WORKING GROUP

Gloria Elisa BERNASCONI
Economics, Finance and International Integration
University of Pavia (Italy)

Donato GUALTIERI
PhD in Public Law, Criminal and International Justice
University of Pavia, Italy

Dinara JUMADILOVA
Master of Public Health
The University of Georgia Athens GA, USA

Cordell RYAN
Master of International Relations
The University of Melbourne

Mari Dahl SCHLANBUSCH
MA in Human Rights Practice
Roehampton University (UK), Göteborgs University (Sweden), University of Tromsø
(Norway)

Daria SHIROKOVA
Doctoral programme in World Economics
National Research University - Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Nina TER-SAAKOVA
Political Sciences, International Relations, Human Rights
University of Padua, Italy

Mukherjee TUNOY
Master of Business Administration, Geneva Business School, Switzerland

Yi WANG
Master of Standardization, Social Regulation and Sustainable Development
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Joseph WOODRUFF
MA International Studies and Diplomacy
Centre for International Studies & Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies
(SOAS), University of London

Xènia BROUSSOVA
Management and marketing
Moscow State Institute of International Relations

UNFPA WORKING GROUP

Joana ABOU-RIZK
Master of Science Nutrition
American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

Kristina ALEKSANDROVA
MSc in Marketing and Business Management (Intensive)
University of Bedfordshire Luton, United Kingdom

Mine ALTAY
MA in International Relations (International Law and World Order)
University of Reading, United Kingdom

Joseph Trawicki ANDERSON
Erasmus Mundus MA in Human Rights Practice
Roehampton University London, UK

Mihaela Cătalina BĂDOIU
International Economics and European business
Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Emmanuel BORNENS
Economic Engineering and Business
University Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France

Myriam BOUGRINE
Master in Public Management (MAP)
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Maria da Graça CANTO MONIZ
Master course in Law in the Politics Area
Universidade de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Silvia CATERINI
LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
University of Essex

Alexis CHABANY
Master in Economic Engineering
University Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France

Lee-Roy CHETTY
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Cecilia PASCHOUD
Master in Visual and Media Anthropology
Free University of Berlin, Germany

Hanh TRAN
Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies (GEMMA)
University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland

Omavovwa UBIAME
Masters in Public Health (Health Policy)
Kings College London, UK

WMO WORKING GROUP

Joseph CUTLER
Natural Resource Management
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Jennifer Emma HILL
MA Human Rights Practice (Erasmus Mundus)
Roehampton University (London, UK), Gothenburg University (Sweden), Tromsø
University (Norway)

Rawad JABER
Masters of Business Administration
Arts, Sciences and Technology university in Lebanon (AUL). Sin El Fil/Lebanon

Leila JALALI
LLM in International Law
University of Nottingham

Katarina KESSELOVA
Psychology
University of Presov, Slovak Republic

Ahram KIM
Master in Aesthetic Research
University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Eleana KYPRIOTAKI
LL.M. in Public International Law
The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, England

Mary MATTHEWS
Master in Economic Engineering
University Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France

Elena OLARIU
Master in Public Health
University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

Fabio OLIVEIRA
Doctorate in Philosophy
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Sisira Saddhamangala WITHANACHCHI
Master of Global Political Economy
University of Kassel, Germany

