

Why talk about population dynamics and reproductive rights at Rio+20?

Insights from Agenda 21 and beyond about how you can care about both population and rights

Population is relevant for environmental protection and resources

"Demographic trends and factors and sustainable development have a synergistic relationship." **Agenda 21 Chapter 5**

Human environmental impact is determined by population dynamics, consumption levels and technologies. Addressing population dynamics – urbanization, migration, age structures, and growth – in ways that respect and protect human rights must be part of the solution.

Population growth is highest in the world's poorest countries where water shortages are severe and hunger is prevalent. Many of these countries have identified population growth as a factor inhibiting efforts to adapt to climate change.

Increased access to voluntary family planning, through preventing unintended pregnancies would ease pressure on resources and increase resilience.

215 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for effective contraception.

Family planning advances gender equality

"Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development." **Rio Principle 20**

An estimated 41% of pregnancies worldwide are unintended. The poorest women in the poorest countries have the highest unmet need for contraception.

Population dynamics present challenges and opportunities for a green economy

"To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies." **Rio Principle 8**

Meeting the needs of rapidly growing populations is a significant economic challenge for many of the poorest countries.

Addressing unmet need for family planning reduces poverty, increases women's education and employment and can deliver a demographic dividend provided key investments, including in women's health and education, are in place.

Family planning is highly cost effective; for each US\$ invested 2 - 6 US\$ can be saved for other development interventions.

Reproductive rights are important elements of a human rights-based approach to sustainable development

"All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so."

International Conference on Population and Development Principle 8

This basic human right could be fulfilled through achievement of MDG Target 5B: universal access to reproductive health.

As well as advancing human rights and social equality, achieving universal access to family planning would drive progress towards many sustainable development goals including: health, poverty alleviation, gender equality, social equity, food security and environmental sustainability.



**Population &
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Investments in education and family planning improve maternal and child health and have synergistic effects for women, their families and societies.

Ensuring that women have the ability to choose the number, timing and spacing of pregnancies is critical for gender equality, and increases women's opportunities for education, employment and full participation in society.



RIO+20

WHO WE ARE

The Population and Climate Change Alliance (PCCA) is an international network of civil society organizations that work together on population, climate change and sustainable development issues.

Mission statement

The PCCA is committed to raising awareness of the extent to which population dynamics can affect vulnerability to the effects of climate change and other environmental problems, and the role that securing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights can play in achieving sustainable development goals. We seek to enhance political and financial support for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and for its integration into climate change adaptation and wider development programmes. The PCCA also seeks to foster constructive and accurate dialogue about population dynamics and climate change, and to counter misinformation or oversimplification of these complex but critical relationships.

Our members:

- Blue Ventures Madagascar
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- Marie Stopes International (MSI)
- PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI)
- Population Action International (PAI)
- Population Health Environment (PHE) Ethiopia Consortium
- Population and Sustainability Network (PSN)
- Sex & Samfund (Danish Family Planning Association)

OUR VALUES

PCCA brings together organizations that:

- Support a comprehensive vision of sexual and reproductive health and rights which includes increased access to family planning programmes that respect and protect human rights, and speak out against programmes which are coercive or which have the effect of reducing, not increasing, individual women's and men's reproductive choices;
- Recognize that the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are those that are least responsible for the high levels of per capita consumption and carbon emissions that are its greatest causes. Our advocacy for increased access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is within the context of global solidarity within which developed nations make significant efforts to reduce consumption and support the developing world in their efforts to adapt to climate change;
- Work to promote community level programmes which combine provision of voluntary family planning services with conservation initiatives, ultimately increasing resilience to climate change and other environmental problems, and improving human well-being in those communities.

OUR CALL FOR RIO+20

We are calling for Rio+20 to:

- Discuss and reflect the interrelationships between population, the environment and development.
- Consider population dynamics in ways that respect and protect human rights.
- Reaffirm and strengthen commitments to reproductive health and rights and gender equality, including existing commitments to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and MDGs 3 and 5.
- Looking to the post-2015 international development agenda, ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights are explicitly and visibly recognized as a core element of the foundation upon which the world's efforts to secure sustainable development for all can be realized.



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Meeting women's needs
and reducing vulnerability