

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

More needs to be done to foster the free, inclusive, transparent participation of all population groups in the decisions that affect them.

The knowledge sector in population and development continues to be weak in many countries, characterized by inconsistent censuses, civil registration and administrative data sources and a limited use of innovations. Much of the existing data related to the ICPD remain under-utilized, especially in the developing world, and are not adequately brought to bear on development planning, budgeting or evaluation, calling for new investments in capacity strengthening.

- **There has been very little improvement over the past decades with regard to the number of countries in the world that provide quality statistics based on universal civil registration. Currently, barely half of UN member states have complete coverage.**

### Data collection, analysis, and dissemination is lacking across region and issues area

- Europe stands out as the only region with complete registration of births and deaths.
- In the least developed countries only about 1/3 of the births are registered, despite an almost 30 per cent gain since 2000. Poor and rural households have the greatest disadvantage.
- Women have difficulty in registering the births of their own children in the absence of a male relative and so are often unable to claim financial and social support for their children as well as nationality.
- In Africa, only 10 countries have complete coverage of births and 5 countries have complete coverage of deaths.
- Only 13 per cent of countries in the world are able to provide high quality cause-of-death data.
- While more countries have been undertaking census exercises and many have expanded census questionnaires to include topics like maternal mortality, dissemination of census data has remained a weak point with important implications for public policy and development planning. While in 1994, gender statistics were documented as “least adequate”, 20 years later despite improvements, data are still largely missing for topics such as gender-based violence, time use, access to assets, finance and entrepreneurship.
- Data on health outcomes are among the most lacking, mainly due to weak civil registration and administrative sources of data.
- Data on poverty are often unavailable, with only 17 sub-Saharan African countries having collected data to measure changes in poverty in the past decade.

- Other critical dimensions of sustainable development are either poorly measured or not measured at all in most countries, such as the extent of stigma or discrimination, the quality of education, access to health care among adolescents and youth, the quality of health care, and spatial inequalities other than crude dichotomies of urban versus rural.
- **UNFPA estimates that \$69.5 billion will be needed in 2015 to finance programmes in the area of population dynamics, reproductive health, including family planning, maternal health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, as well as programmes that address the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data.**

### **Recommendations**

- 1. Population Dynamics Data are Critically Important for Development Planning.**
- 2. Knowledge Sectors Need Strengthening.**
- 3. More Systematic, Inclusive Participation.**
- 4. Better accountability systems are needed for national and global programs, as well as for the emerging complexity of development partnerships.**