World Population Policies

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Demographics
“The world today is demographically more fragmented than ever”

(May 2012: 237)
Future Population Growth

Source: 2010 UN Population Projections, Medium variant
World Population in 2010 by Fertility Levels

- 16% **Total Fertility Rate (TFR) >4.0** (mainly the 49 LDCs)

- 38% **TFR between 2.1 and 4.0** (diverse group)

- 46% **TFR <2.1** (USA, Canada, Europe, Asian countries)
Map of Fertility Levels in 2010

Note: Light areas indicate low fertility, darker areas, medium fertility, and darkest areas, high fertility.
Population Momentum

Additional population growth resulting from the age structure

It can be positive (e.g., sub-Saharan Africa, USA) or negative (e.g., Russia).
Timing of replacement-level fertility

The year in which a country reaches replacement level fertility has a major impact on its ultimate population size.

Niger

Total fertility rate: 7.4
Unmet need for family planning: 16%
Demographic Dividend

The working age groups expand bringing lower dependency ratios and faster economic growth

But

- sound economic policies are needed
- limited window of opportunity
- the dividend can turn negative
Policies
What are Population Policies?

Explicit or implicit actions by public authorities …

… to prevent, delay, or address imbalances between demographic changes and social, economic, environmental, and political goals
Policy Issues

- Mortality, esp. infant & child
- Fertility: too high, too low
- Population aging
- Internal and external migration
- Transmigration (e.g., Indonesia)
Initial Policies

Reduce mortality
- Focus on specific diseases
- Immunization campaigns

Reduce fertility
- Vanguard countries: Japan, India, Egypt
- *Population Movement*
- Contraceptive revolution
Setbacks

Family planning failures and/or abuses
• Pakistan vs. Bangladesh
• India: Emergency 1975-77
• China: One-Child Policy 1979

Recognition of supply vs. demand
• Unmet needs
• High desired fertility
• Women’s education and empowerment
Population becomes an international issue

**Population Conferences**
Bucharest 1974
Mexico 1984
Cairo 1994

**New Population Institutions**
IPPF 1952
USAID (first family planning project in 1968)
UNFPA 1969
World Bank (1st pop loan: Jamaica 1970)
New Approaches

- Family planning alone is not sufficient
- Reproductive rights movement
- Influence of feminists & women’s groups

1994 Reproductive Rights Agenda (Cairo)
2000 Millennium Development Goals
2005 MDG Target 5b
2014 UN General Assembly session on population!
HIV/AIDS: Opportunity or Distraction?
Has the “population agenda” run out of steam?

- Population problem: “resolved”?
- Cairo Agenda: too broad & ill-defined?
- MDGs: missed out on reproductive health
- New challenges: HIV/AIDS, climate change, governance, food crisis
- US domestic politics at play
- Conservative backlash
New Policy Issues

- North-South demographic divide
- Population growth in sub-Saharan Africa
- Population decline in Europe and Asia
- Sex selection
- Women’s empowerment
- Urbanization, including slums
2012 London Summit
Goals to address:

- Unmet needs for contraception (120m couples)
- Child mortality (MDG4)
- Maternal mortality (MDG5)
What are THE Population Issues of next Decades?

- Expanding populations in LDCs
- Contracting population in DCs
- Rapid population aging
- Urbanization & slums
- Increasing migration

A new overarching discipline: POLITICAL DEMOGRAPHY
“... population policies are more important and more relevant than ever”

(May 2012: 11)
Thank You

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