ICPD Beyond 2014: The UNECE Region’s Perspective

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ICPD Beyond 2014 – The global framework

- General Assembly extended ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014
- UNFPA mandated to lead global review of implementation
- Regional reviews conducted with UN regional commissions
- Commission on Population and Development and Special General Assembly Session to assess status of implementation in 2014
ICPD Beyond 2014 – The regional process

- Global survey and UNECE regional report
- Academic research (IIASA/Wittgenstein report)
- Preparatory experts meetings
- Consultations (civil society, youth, parliamentarians)
- Regional conference

Trends
The region

- 56 states, 18% of world population

The regional story

4 fundamental transformations

- Population growth -> population ageing
- Population numbers -> investing in people
- Migration: increasing complexity
- Changing gender roles & family structures
Regional trends: population

People in the region:
  • live longer
  • are healthier
  • are better educated
  • have fewer children, and later in life
  • live in more diverse family settings
  • have higher incomes
  • are more mobile

Regional trends: population

This has led to:
  • Population growth slowing or negative
  • Ageing societies
  • Increasing diversity
How to respond?

- Societies can prosper with slow/negative population growth
- Ageing is not a threat if societies:
  - Anticipate change and prepare for it
  - Adapt institutions & systems
  - Invest in people’s education, health, employment opportunities

Challenges and barriers

- Huge differences in mortality, morbidity (between east & west, men & women)
- Non-communicable/lifestyle-related diseases
- STIs/HIV infections
- Barriers to access SRH services, including modern contraceptives
Life expectancy

![Life expectancy at birth (male)](chart)

Modern contraceptives prevalence

![Modern contraceptives prevalence](chart)
Challenges and barriers

• Youth unemployment
• Gender inequality and violence against women persisting
• Non-traditional family settings insufficiently recognized
• Economic inequalities between and in countries on the rise

Policy responses:
now & beyond 2014
UNECE Regional Report

based on:

- Country Implementation Profiles (CIP)
- ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey questionnaire
- Available studies and international statistics

**45 UNECE Countries submitted their responses to the questionnaire**

Implementing ICPD PoA: Policy Approaches

- **Cross-sectorial**
  - Comprehensive coverage of an issue through a variety of “cross-sectorial” public policies
  - Generally supportive in realizing people’s individual choices

- **Population (demographic) Strategies**
  - Macro-level regulation with quantitative goals (population growth, fertility, mortality, etc.)
  - Complemented with specific social & other policies addressing ICPD PoA issues
Implementing ICPD PoA: Overall Policy Responses

Achievements
- Harmonization of national legislation, policies and programmes in line with international agreements, including ICPD PoA
- Stronger focus on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Attention to the needs and human rights of vulnerable groups

Challenges
- Translating policies into actions supported by budget allocations
- Reaching out to individuals & marginalised groups
- Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation

Facilitators vs. Barriers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITATORS</th>
<th>BARRIERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>effective partnership with stakeholders at the national level</td>
<td>the consequences of the financial and economic crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>involvement of civil society and community-based organizations</td>
<td>national budget constraints</td>
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<tr>
<td>support provided by the government to different organizations (e.g. funding, logistics, coordinating mechanisms)</td>
<td>existing economic/political environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>public-private partnership</td>
<td>complexity of legislation and bureaucracy</td>
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Policy responses

Population growth → population ageing

Older people: Priorities
- provision & quality of social services including long-term care
- pension reforms
- dignity & independent living
- adapted health care services
- participation in community life & decision making process
- lifelong learning

Issues of concern
- neglect, abuse and violence against older persons
- employment opportunities and utilization of older people’s skills and competences
- healthy & active ageing, including SRH

Youth: Priorities
- investing in education (formal & informal):
  - environmental, civic, SRH, life-skills
- creating employment opportunities
- improving health:
  - access to quality health care
  - youth-friendly SRH services
- combating violence & exploitation

Issues of concern
- reaching out to underserved, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and youth
- matching labour market needs with education, vocational and lifelong learning
- participation in decision making
- poverty & rising inequality
Policy responses

Changing gender roles & family structures

Families: Priorities
- 3 pillars of support: allowances, parental leave and child care
- poor families with children, single-parent families, families caring for members with specific needs
- combining employment and parenthood
- gender equality within family

Issues of concern
- lagging legal basis for non-traditional living arrangements
- rights related to fatherhood
- child abuse and neglect
- feminisation of care work within family

Gender equality: Priorities
- women’s participation in the formal and informal economy
- representation in political processes & decision making
- addressing gender stereotypes
- bridging the gender pay gap
- ending gender-based violence & trafficking in human beings

Issues of concern
- Persisting harmful traditional practices (i.e. child & forced marriages, etc.)
- sex selective abortion in some countries
- gender gap in old age pensions
- adequate budgeting and gender-sensitive monitoring of policies & programmes
Progress/Achievements

- Autonomy over personal reproductive choices supported by policies & programmes
- Scope of SRH services enlarged
- SRH services coverage of population increased
- Safe abortion is generally accessible
- Information and counselling on SRH&RR widespread
- Integrated SRH in primary health care common
- Policies/programmes addressing HIV/AIDS and other STIs

Challenges/Issues to be addressed

- Access to SRH services for persons with disabilities, the poor, migrants, marginalised groups, older persons
- Access of adolescents and youth to comprehensive SRH information, education and services (youth-friendly services)
- Quality of SRH services
- Prevention and treatment of infertility (and ART)
- Rising incidence of HIV and other STIs
- Capacity to respond to the needs of people living with HIV
- Operative breast and cervical cancer screening programmes
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Concluding remarks (1)
- Priorities and policy recommendations need to be updated in the light of changing societal concerns and emerging issues in population dynamics across countries
- The lasting impact of the recent economic and financial crisis on the social and economic environment has to be taken into account
- Policies should help people by alleviating barriers that hinder them from enabling their personal choices in life

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• Concluding remarks (2)
- Achievements in contemporary governance need to be furthered (involvement of civil society organizations & citizens’ participation in civic matters)
- Design of policy scope and application requires sound evidence that should be provided by relevant data and rigorous research
- Many of the ICPD PoA goals (related to sustainable environment, economic development, migration, etc.) can only be achieved with strong regional coordination and agreement about the way forward
Thank you