World Population Day 2011

The world at 7 BILLION counting on each other

UNFPA
Myanmar

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Reducing poverty and inequality slows population growth.

Unleashing the power of women and girls will accelerate progress.

The next two billion people will live in cities, so we need to plan now.

The largest population of young people is changing our world and future.

All seven billion of us, and those who follow, depend on the health of our planet.

Lower fertility and longer lives add up to an unprecedented challenge: ageing populations.

Ensuring that every child is wanted and every childbirth safe leads to smaller and stronger families.

World Population Day 2011: The World at 7 Billion
“When girls are educated and healthy, and can avoid early marriage, unwanted pregnancy and HIV, they can contribute fully to society.”
“In a world of seven billion, every person should enjoy human rights and human dignity, and have the opportunity to make the most of his or her potential.”

UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin
Seven Billion People Counting on Each Other

In many ways, a world of seven billion is an achievement. Huge inequities, however, persist and many daunting challenges lie ahead. While many richer countries are now concerned about low fertility and aging, the poorest nations struggle to meet the needs of rapidly growing populations. More people than ever before are vulnerable to food insecurity, water shortages, and weather-related disasters. Whether we can live together on a healthy, sustainable planet depends on the decisions we make now. In a world of seven billion people, we have to rely on each other for our common goal.
POVERTY and INEQUALITY

Poverty, inequity, and high infant mortality are linked in a vicious cycle. Reducing poverty by investing in health and education—especially that of women and girls—can help break this cycle. With improving conditions, parents are more confident that most of their children will survive, and so choose to have smaller families. Longer spacing between pregnancies improves the health of both mothers and children. Smaller families also provide a “demographic dividend” for countries: a large group of working age people having few dependents can spur economic growth.
POVERTY and INEQUALITY

Poverty is the major obstacle faced by women and girls in gaining equitable opportunities for access to health care and basic education. Provision of micro-loan assistance through “Women Friendly Spaces” operated by AFXB with funding from UNFPA has proven to be effective in contributing to the development of women and girls. Income is a major contributing factor for health seeking behavior of women and girls for themselves and for their families. Interest free micro-loans empower women through income generation activities. These activities enable women to have decision making power on reproductive rights and seek and access health including reproductive health care.
WOMEN and GIRLS
Investing in women and girls is not only the ethical thing to do, it is central to solving the world's most challenging problems. When women earn money, they invest most of it into the well-being of their families. Thus investing in women and girls strengthens families and promotes economic growth, peace, and equity. Women who are healthy, educated, and have the ability to participate fully in society create positive changes in their families and communities. Advances in reproductive health and rights will in turn enhance women's well-being and productivity, while also improving the lives of future generations. Investment in women is investing in a sustainable, peaceful, prosperous future.
WOMEN and GIRLS

In every disaster, women and girls happen to be one of the most vulnerable groups. In order to address their protection needs, women's economic capacity should be strengthened through livelihood enhancement and women's empowerment. UNFPA and its implementing partners provide vocational training to enhance livelihood skills of women through women's friendly spaces. These services will enable women to generate income and to have employment opportunities.
Large populations of youth can be an asset for developing countries, especially if they have the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, social, and political life of the nation. Open to the possibilities afforded by new technologies, young people are transforming politics and culture. Their choices will determine our common future. Investing in young people, especially adolescent girls, is one of the best investments a country can make. With health, education, and opportunities, women will be able to contribute fully to society.
YOUNG PEOPLE

Throughout the world, UNFPA is striving to improve the health, knowledge, and skills of young people in more than 150 countries, including Myanmar. The aim is to transform a happy and healthy adolescent life into a happy family life.
Every day 1,000 women die giving birth, creating a void as they leave behind their families, and diminishing the prospects of their surviving children. Throughout the world, people are choosing to have increasingly smaller families. Smaller family size is linked to improvements in education, health, and opportunities, especially for women. Promoting gender equality, providing effective reproductive health care, and giving parents the support they need to make wise choices for their families all help the welfare of all of society.
In Myanmar, UNFPA has been working with the Ministry of Health and a number of local and international NGOs to strengthen the provision of reproductive and maternal health services, including programmes for birth spacing, pre- and post natal care, delivery care, and emergency obstetric care. As the main provider of reproductive health-related supplies in Myanmar, UNFPA’s role is critical to reducing maternal mortality. The Fund also supports the training of health staff to provide high-quality reproductive health care and accurate information on healthy practices for maternal and newborn care, while also providing a variety of contraceptives for birth spacing and sexual health. Increasing people’s familiarity with and knowledge of contraceptives has eased their fears about contraceptives and reduced the spread of sexually transmitted infections, leading to happy and healthy families.
ENVIROMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The paramount challenge of this century is to meet the needs of seven billion people—and the following generations—while protecting nature that sustains all our lives. Shortages of water and arable land are already a critical problem, and the resilience of all ecosystems, from forests to fishing grounds, is highly threatened. Human activity has already altered every part of our planet, including the climate. Rising lifestyle expectations put additional pressure on the planet’s resource, and will require more efficient, more environmentally-friendly “green” ways to provide all of us with decent lives. Greater social equity and slower population growth will help make cooperative solutions to environmental problems possible and sustainable.
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Myanmar is blessed with rich natural resources, including vast areas of forest. Many people, however, must ensure their own survival and in the process are destroying these forest reserves. We must work together in a concerted effort to help people understand how to conserve resources through behavior change to sustain the natural environment over the long term.
As people are having smaller families and living longer, the proportion of older people is increasing almost everywhere, presenting unprecedented challenges to economic growth and providing adequate health care. Healthy older workers represent a growing reservoir of untapped human capital. When they remain active in the workforce, older people can make great contributions to their families and communities. Furthermore, many older people must continue to remain economically active well beyond the time that their societies think they should retire.
PO PULATION AGING

In Myanmar, the proportion of elderly population aged 60 and over has increased from 8.7% in 2007 to 9.1% in 2010. Due to the economic situation of the country, about a third of the elderly population remains economically active well into their old age. The promotion of employment opportunities for the elderly will decrease care burden on families and increase economic independence of the elderly. UNFPA is participating in the preparation of the National Action Plan for Ageing which will create more opportunities for the welfare, health care and social protection of the elderly. UNFPA has worked to create this plan with the participation of government departments and national and international NGOs.
Almost all future population growth will be absorbed into the cities of the developing world, which are largely unprepared for such rapid expansion. Planning must begin now to take advantage of the many benefits life in cities can offer to their populations. While cities can be a space where poverty becomes concentrated, they also provide the best means of escaping it. Cities have long been the engines of economic growth.
URBAN GROWTH

In the coming years, Myanmar will inevitably face problems related to population growth and urbanization. One major reason for this has been internal migration, with many people moving into urban city areas out from rural areas. Now is the time to address these issues. Since no one can tackle these problems alone, everyone must think of problems related to urbanization as their own concern and act both nationally and globally. In Myanmar, the percentage of urban population has risen from 24.9% in 1990 to 33.9% in 2010.
MISSION STATEMENT

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

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