

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2003 – June 2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

In order to promote *coordination and coherence* in support of NEPAD priorities, UNFPA joined three of the 5 UN thematic cluster groups and reached consensus on joint priority activities and how to implement them. Follow-up is being actively pursued with particularly WHO, UNEP, UNICEF and IOM, among others.

In order to facilitate popularization and implementation of NEPAD/PoA at country level, UNFPA designated its representatives in the region to be focal points. UNFPA Technical Interdisciplinary Team has also been designated for the provision of technical assistance for intervention at the regional level and particularly in strengthening the Regional Economic Communities in undertaking their NEPAD related mandate. In this connection and to help determine priority areas of support, UNFPA in collaboration with WHO and IOM undertook capacity assessment of IGAD and similar exercises are to follow with ECOWAS and the East African Community during the current year.

With respect to South-South Cooperation, UNFPA visited China in order to explore priority areas for possible collaboration and exchange of experience between African Countries and China. Follow-up discussions are underway with the Chinese government and selected African countries for the commencement of this exchange. Areas identified for Sino-African collaboration include the following: (a) Learning from the Chinese experience of poverty reduction; (b) Training in leadership in population; (c)

contraceptive logistics management; (d) collaborative research in adolescent and youth reproductive health; (e) establishing knowledge sharing network; and (f) research management.

Among the areas discussed were the support to gender mainstreaming in the NEPAD Agricultural Programme, enhancing the database for monitoring purposes as well as the technical input into the Draft Health Strategy. The Secretariat is yet to decide on when and how UNFPA assistance should be delivered.

Areas of support for NEPAD

UNFPA has been most active in pursuing dialogue and consultation with the Commission of African Union and particularly with the Department of Social Development. It supported the Department in the preparation of the Expert Group on the African Family that discussed the *Action Plan on African Families*. It also supported the AU in preparation the *State of the African Population Report: Population and the Poverty Challenge*, which was presented to the Executive Council of the AU Fifth Ordinary Session. UNFPA has also been active in the promotion of NEPAD at country level. UNFPA also co-sponsored with the AU/UNICEF the Child Policy Forum, the International Conference on the Child and the Family that aimed at further awareness raising of the issues and their impact on African Child and the Family.

- Strengthening technical and institutional capacity of the AU and the RECs
- Policy dialogue for mainstreaming population and development into Africa's agenda
- Advocacy for the NEPAD Programme of Action

UNFPA's financial commitment to NEPAD

Pending the finalisation of the regional programme, UNFPA has made an outlay of about US\$0.5 million for technical assistance, coordination and advocacy purposes.

Contribution of UNFPA to strengthening the response to NEPAD

UNFPA believes in the empowerment of Africans, particularly women and youth, through education and good health, as well as access to resources, accountable leadership in social development and most important upholding social, economic and economic rights facilitate good governance durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

- Although the UNFPA does not directly finance the above-mentioned key areas, it is actively involved in humanitarian assistance and works closely with UN country teams on this aspect.
- The UNFPA also believes development issues are inter-related. The issues of migration, rapid population growth unmatched with available resources, deepening poverty, HIV/AIDs, high levels of maternal mortality are all factors which should be dealt with in holistic and strategic manner in order to advance sustainable development.

Since the Secretary-General's call for a coordinated response, UNFPA has taken several initiatives, including the putting in place the conceptual linkages between NEPAD and ICPD/PoA, designating a representative to the AU and regional institutions based at the Headquarters of the AU. The representative is expected to ensure a coordinated response in support of NEPAD, PoA, undertake a policy dialogue with the AU Commission, the RECs, provide support, undertake an advocacy role and serve as a channel of communication. Results of consultations and dialogue do not come easy particularly during this early stage of implementation the NEPAD and formative period of the AU Commission. Preparing the Ground takes time, particularly where there are many actors. All the same, UNFPA remains confident that, as a key ally to the AU, it will effectively contribute to meeting the challenges.

Participation in regional consultations and clusters/future programmes

UNFPA in partnership with ECA co-sponsored African Ministerial Regional review and sub-regional workshops on Africa's performance of progress made towards to commitment and consensus reached at ICPD. It also supported the Regional Review led by IPPF for the same purpose. The focus was reproductive health i.e. the extent to which quality services have been accessible, affordable and acceptable and the efforts towards the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality as well as the empowerment of women and youth development.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

Possible recommendation for strengthening NEPAD implementation and advocacy would include: (a) making NEPAD results-

based implementation a key factor of performance assessment of UN agencies; (b) Country programme Management Plans must include what would be done in the context of NEPAD. Consequently, countries should report on efforts and possible outcomes; (c) allocate funds within country programmes for popularization and advocating for NEPAD/PoA, the AU vision and objectives.

With respect to the NEPAD process, one recommendation that should be made is ensuring shared ownership of NEPAD i.e. Leaders and by the people as well. The popularisation strategy should include how shared ownership could be achieved.