

CPD55 Side Event: SRHR for population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

Date and time	28th of April 2022, 12:30 - 13:45 GMT
Organizer(s)	International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
Moderator(s)	Klaudia Szymuś , IFMSA Liaison Officer for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Issues including HIV and AIDS Mohamed Eissa, IFMSA Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues
Registration	Register in advance for this meeting: https://ifmsa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlce2rqDIsGdMFH85a36e3ZY2yLhKzdiNX

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PANEL

In a world where our populations are increasing, almost reaching 8 billion people, we are still surrounded by several factors and determinants that may surprisingly seem irrelevant to health to several stakeholders, but health should remain in the center of all the policies.

The interlinkage between demographic trends and health should also be further highlighted, especially due to the fact that for example expanded access to healthcare has decreased mortality and fertility in many countries, while on other hand, fertility declines have improved health conditions. However in the presence of these interlinkages, many people are still lacking basic essential health services such as their access to sexual and reproductive health and primary healthcare services and affected by extreme out of pocket health payments and thus not only affecting our road towards universal health coverage in specific, but to the SDGs in general.

It is extremely important to adopt a life-course approach to health, “emphasizing that early health is the greatest predictor of healthy aging and health investments at all ages improve health at older ages. Health investments across the life course provide enormous returns in terms of lifetime earnings, reduced health-care costs at older ages and the enabling of older people to continue their social and economic contributions in later life.” and thus it is crucial to provide all health care requirements to all groups of the society such as maternal healthcare, child care, nutrition, family planning, among others.

However unfortunately, the pandemic has highlighted to us how weak and fragile our health systems are in terms of all their 6 building blocks and how our health are affected by several other determinants such as unemployment, stigma and

discrimination affecting our attainability of our basic human right to health.

With the global fertility rate decreasing, several opportunities exist including but not limited to women empowerment and inclusion in different fields as a result of having more time and investment in their education and paid work, in addition to child care in terms of their education and health. However unfortunately such opportunities remain unused, specifically in the lack of multi-sectoral approach that involves governments, NGOs, public sectors, market and family networks. In this population dynamics transition and presence of several megatrends, family planning becomes more accessible to those from a higher socioeconomic position, exacerbating social inequalities. Access to contraception translates to better health outcomes, reduces costs of care but also decreases the likelihood of living in poverty, leading to multifactorial positive effects on the country's economy. Globally, many individuals have their needs for family planning unmet, while also lacking information on SRHR services, facing financial hardship to access the service or experiencing social stigma. These challenges affect marginalized populations more than those better off. In order to build equitable and inclusive societies, current systems have to understand that ensuring access, availability and affordability of family planning is crucial to achieving it.

In this panel, we would discuss the importance of family planning, existing gaps and directions of change.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session, at least 80% of the participants should:

- Understand the current demographic trends and their relation to economic growth and sustainable development from a health perspective.
- Understand the impact of COVID-19 on populations from an SRHR perspective
- Understand the role of SRHR including family planning in building more inclusive economic growth.
- Be able to identify possible solutions for the inclusion of SRHR services such as family planning in reshaping health systems to ensure inclusive and sustainable development

STRUCTURE

- 5 mins - Introduction by the moderator
- 15 mins - Introductory presentation about SRHR and family planning
- 30 mins - Panel Discussion
- 5 mins - Final Remarks
- 5 mins - Buffer time

QUESTION FOR PANEL DISCUSSION

1. How is family planning interlinked with demographic trends? Does any of them have a positive or negative impact on the other?
2. In order to further progress our work on SRHR and family planning services, we need to well identify the scope of the current status. What challenges do you identify in estimating access to family planning globally and on a country level?
3. How does inequitable access to SRHR services affect different marginalized populations and what obstacles do they face?
4. Health policies and health system - what has to change to provide SRHR services including family planning to all in need? Are there any examples of countries worth sharing?
5. How will accessible and equitable provision of SRHR services, specifically family planning contribute to more inclusive economic growth and sustainable development?
6. How can us, the youth, contribute to a positive change in the family planning area and thus the economic growth and sustainable development
7. In the modern world, innovation and technology can progress us a lot towards our global and national agendas.. What opportunities do you see for this in SRHR?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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