



Commission on Population and Development**Fifty-sixth session**

10 - 14 April 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Programme implementation and future programme
of work of the Secretariat in the field of population****Programme plan for 2023 and programme performance
for 2021: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7,
Economic and social affairs****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The programme plan of the Secretariat in the field of population for the year 2023, as published in [A/77/6\(Sect.9\)](#) for subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, is contained in the annex to the present note.
2. Beginning in 2020, the strategic framework and proposed programme of work were subject to the annual programme budget approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/266 A](#), including a results framework. A draft of the results framework was proposed in annex III to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process” ([A/72/492/Add.1](#)). In its resolution [77/267](#), the Assembly decided to lift the trial period effective from 2023⁷ and requested the Secretary-General to continue with the submission of the programme budget according to an annual cycle.
3. The content for the subprogramme published in [A/77/6\(Sect.9\)](#) includes the programme narrative and list of deliverables for 2023, as well as a review of programme performance for 2021.
4. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme plan for 2023 and to make suggestions concerning future priorities for the work of the subprogramme.

* [E/CN.9/2023/1](#).

Annex

Excerpted from A/77/6(Sect.9), Proposed programme budget for 2023, Part IV, International cooperation for development, Section 9, Economic and social affairs, Programme 7, Economic and social affairs (programme of work from paragraphs 9.77 to 9.89; legislative mandates from paragraph 9.18)

Programme of work

Subprogramme 5 Population

Objective

- 9.77 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve knowledge of global population trends, advance an evidence-based understanding of interactions between population change and sustainable development among policymakers and the public, and to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda.

Strategy

- 9.78 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Prepare studies on issues related to population growth, population ageing, migration, urbanization, fertility, family planning, mortality and other aspects of population in relation to sustainable development using population estimates and projections, the analysis of demographic trends and the evaluation of population policies;
 - (b) Produce comprehensive global data sets on selected topics, as well as brief reports to highlight these topics and related data, and an annual report on a selected major demographic topic. Data sets will include aggregated results for groups of countries in special situations;
 - (c) Provide capacity development on population data and analysis to requesting countries and to United Nations country teams;
 - (d) Continue to provide substantive support to United Nations intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Commission on Population and Development, including by preparing reports and convening expert meetings and panels;
 - (e) Assist Governments in assessing progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994, and with a focus on the global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicators on reproductive health, international migration and child and maternal mortality, often in partnership with other entities of the United Nations system;
 - (f) Continue to improve the United Nations estimates and projections of the global population;
 - (g) Study the interaction of COVID-19 with demographic phenomena, including mortality, population ageing, fertility and family planning, and international migration, and including these analyses, as appropriate, in publications and technical materials.
- 9.79 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Improved access to data and reports on population matters for Governments and other users and increased use of the subprogramme's data and findings in the work of stakeholders;

- (b) Increased awareness of population trends and their relationship to sustainable development through accurate data and policy-relevant reports, benefiting Member States and other stakeholders in policy and development planning;
- (c) Advancement in the international community's usage of scientifically grounded information about the demographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular on mortality.

Programme performance in 2021

New evidence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on demographic trends

- 9.80 The programme collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) to establish the WHO-Department of Economic and Social Affairs Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment in order to obtain accurate estimates of numbers of deaths attributable to the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic. Those estimates are needed to assess the global impact of the pandemic and to inform the mortality estimates to be included in *World Population Prospects 2022*. The Group brings together over 30 experts in demography, epidemiology and statistics from around the world, including from national statistical offices, ministries of health and the academic community. In addition, over 30 people from United Nations agencies and partners, academia and the private sector participate in the Group as observers. The Group has proposed a method for generating estimates of excess mortality on the global, regional and national scales, scheduled for publication by WHO in 2022 following a process of country consultation to identify any problems with the estimation methodology, to discover any missing data sources and to confirm the results. The subprogramme convened an expert group meeting in May 2021 to assess the possible impact of the pandemic on fertility. The consensus view at that time was that short-term declines in fertility of varying magnitudes could be observed or anticipated in 2020 and 2021, and that fertility levels were likely to return to pre-pandemic levels between 2023 and 2025.
- 9.81 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 9.14).

Table 9.14

Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
–	Emergence of COVID-19 on a global scale, with limited data available to assess demographic impacts	Methods made available for generating internationally comparable estimates of excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

Planned results for 2023

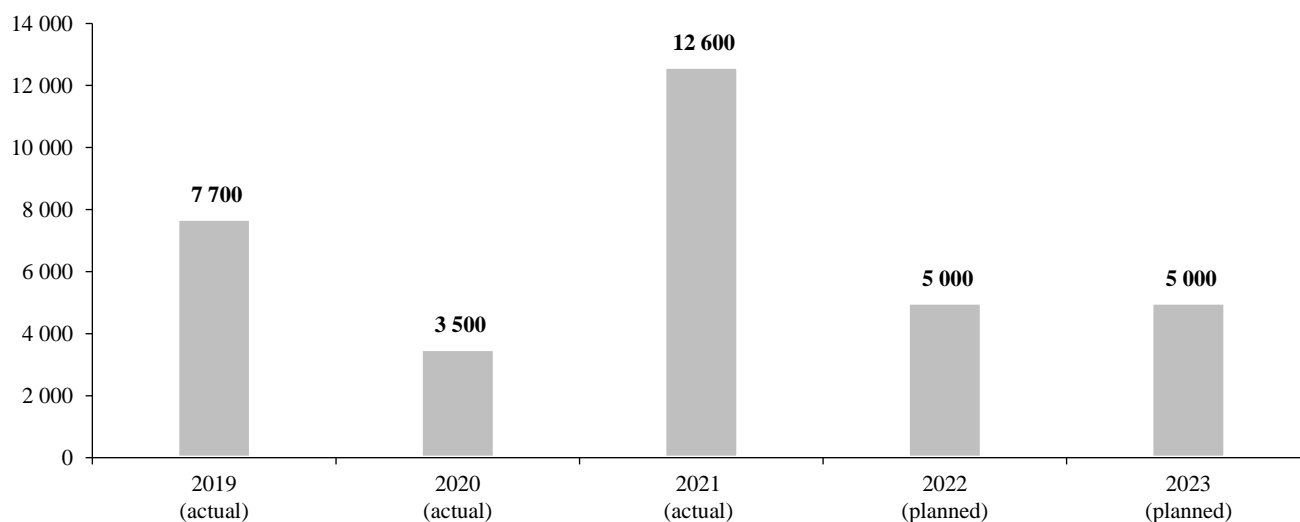
Result 1: global population estimates and projections for the Sustainable Development Goals era

Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 9.82 The subprogramme's work contributed to 12,600 additional citations of *World Population Prospects* in academic articles, which exceeded the planned target of 5,000.
- 9.83 Progress towards the objective and target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 9.VIII).

Figure 9.VIII

Performance measure: number of additional citations of *World Population Prospects* in academic articles (annual)



Result 2: improved estimates of the number of international migrants

Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 9.84 The subprogramme’s work contributed to the review of data on the numbers of international migrants for 183 countries or areas and the development of computer scripts for improving the efficiency, quality and reproducibility of the estimates of international migrant stocks, which met the planned target.
- 9.85 Progress towards the objective and target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 9.15).

Table 9.15

Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Member States benefited from access to the 2019 estimates of numbers (the “stock”) of international migrants, disaggregated by age, sex and countries of origin and destination	Member States benefited from access to an update of the stock of international migrants, produced using pre-existing methods, including an adjustment for the impact of COVID-19	Data reviewed for 183 countries or areas and piloted improvements in the estimation of the stock of international migrants, which would further benefit stakeholders, including Member States	Member States, policymakers and the public have improved knowledge, and have access to updated and improved data on the stock of international migrants	Stakeholders, including Member States, have access to additional data for the remainder of the 235 geographical units in the migrant stock database; improvements implemented in the estimation of numbers of international migrants

Result 3: strengthened evidence on population-related data and policies for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Proposed programme plan for 2023

9.86 The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in Cairo in 1994, was a landmark agreement among countries, recognizing that people are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and acknowledging the interdependence of demographic processes, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrated the discussion of linkages between population and development, building on international frameworks that preceded it. An expert panel on the work programme in population, held during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development, encouraged strengthened integration of countries' inputs to the Commission and to the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. In 2023, countries will be preparing for the 30-year review of the Programme of Action during the annual session of the Commission, in 2024. The subprogramme has produced reports examining major population trends and their linkages to sustainable development. The organization of virtual events, including expert group meetings and both formal and informal meetings during the annual sessions of the Commission on Population and Development, has increased the engagement of Member States and other stakeholders.

Lessons learned and planned change

9.87 The lesson for the subprogramme was that systematic outreach and communications in the context of reports, data sets, expert meetings and work with national counterparts help to ensure greater engagement of target audiences. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will focus its main report in 2023 on the interrelations between population trends and sustainable development and how population-related policies can contribute to the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda. It will organize hybrid and virtual events, strengthen collaboration with United Nations country teams and systematize communications plans for reports and data sets.

9.88 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 9.16)

Table 9.16

Performance measure

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>	<i>2023 (planned)</i>
Member States reaffirm their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action	Shift to virtual events enables broader engagement	Expert panel stresses the need for strengthened integration of country inputs and outreach to countries	Engagement with stakeholders to integrate updated information on population trends and policies	Countries benefit from strengthened integration of evidence in their preparations for the 2024 review of the Programme of Action

Deliverables

9.89 Table 9.17 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 9.17

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	2	4	2
1. Reports to the General Assembly	–	–	1	–
2. Reports to the Commission on Population and Development	2	2	3	2
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	33	29	36	29
Meetings of:				
3. The General Assembly	–	–	7	–
4. The Economic and Social Council	1	1	1	1
5. The Commission on Population and Development	24	26	24	24
6. Experts on population topics	8	2	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Publications (number of publications)	3	2	4	3
7. <i>World Population Prospects: Highlights</i>	1	–	–	–
8. Highlights report on selected demographic trend	–	–	–	1
9. <i>International Migration: Highlights</i>	–	–	1	–
10. <i>World Fertility and Family Planning: Highlights</i>	–	–	1	–
11. <i>World Population Ageing: Highlights</i>	–	–	–	1
12. <i>World Population Policies: Highlights</i>	1	1	–	–
13. <i>Population Megatrends</i>	1	1	1	1
14. Questionnaire for the thirteenth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	12	12	12	8
15. Major data sets on population topics	2	2	2	–
16. Sustainable Development Goals indicator data sets	3	3	3	1
17. Reports of expert group meetings on population topics	3	3	3	3
18. Technical papers on population topics	4	4	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: briefings for and consultations with Member States concerning the annual session of the Commission on Population and Development; and briefings/expert advice to Member States on population and sustainable development issues, including high-level bilateral consultations and intergovernmental meetings.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: databases and data sets on population topics.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits on population topics; and special events on population topics.				
External and media relations: press conferences and press releases related to the Commission on Population and Development; press releases to support the launch of major publications or data sets; and responses to requests from Member States, the media, United Nations entities and other stakeholders.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: interactive data visualizations and social media and multimedia content on population topics.				

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 5 Population

General Assembly resolutions

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development	68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
S-21/2	Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	71/1	New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
57/299	Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS	72/281 73/195	International Day of Family Remittances Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	73/326 75/226	Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1994/2	Work programme in the field of population	1999/10	Population growth, structure and distribution
1995/55	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	Decision 2005/213 2016/25	Improvement of the work of the Commission on Population and Development Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development
1997/2	International migration and development		
1997/42	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development		

Commission on Population and Development resolutions

1997/2	Reporting requirements to the Commission on Population and Development	2008/1	Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development
1997/3	Work programme in the field of population	2009/1	The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals
1998/1	Health and mortality		
2000/1	Population, gender and development		
2001/1	Population, environment and development		
2003/1	Population, education and development	2010/1	Health, morbidity, mortality and development
2004/1	Work programme in the field of population	2011/1	Fertility, reproductive health and development
2004/2	Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	2012/1 2013/1	Adolescents and youth New trends in migration: demographic aspects
2005/1	Population, development and HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on poverty	2014/1	Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
2005/2	Contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration	2016/1	Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, as contained in the report on the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development (E/2019/25-E/CN.9/2019/6)
2006/1	Methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development		
2006/2	International migration and development		
2007/1	Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development	2021/1	Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development