

## I. MAJOR POPULATION CONCERNS

This section summarizes information on population issues that were identified as a major concern or unacceptable by Governments in 2011. Globally, among the population issues considered, violence against women was the most commonly identified major concern of Governments in 2011 (92 per cent), followed by non-communicable diseases (86 per cent) and HIV/AIDS (80 per cent) (Box I.1). Overweight and obesity, and irregular migration were considered major concerns by three quarters of Governments. Governments in both developed (94 per cent) and developing countries (92 per cent) were about equally likely to consider violence against women as a major concern, whereas almost all Governments in least developed countries (98 per cent) considered it to be a major concern.

Box I.1							
POPULATION ISSUES OF CONCERN TO GOVERNMENTS IN 2011							
[Issues that were a major concern or unacceptable to at least 50 per cent of Governments in 2011, by level of development]							
World		More Developed Regions		Less Developed Regions		Least Developed Countries	
Issue	Per-centage	Issue	Per-centage	Issue	Per-centage	Issue	Per-centage
Violence against women	92	Overweight and obesity	96	Violence against women	92	HIV/AIDS	100
Non-communicable diseases	86	Non-communicable diseases	94	Non-communicable diseases	83	Child mortality	100
HIV/AIDS	80	Violence against women	94	HIV/AIDS	82	Violence against women	98
Overweight and obesity	75	Population ageing	88	Tuberculosis	78	Life expectancy at birth	98
Irregular migration	75	Irregular migration	77	Child mortality	77	Tuberculosis	96
Tuberculosis	68	HIV/AIDS	73	Undernutrition in children	77	Undernutrition in children	96
Adolescent fertility	65	Low fertility	65	Maternal mortality	76	Maternal mortality	96
Child mortality	64	Size of working-age population	64	Irregular migration	73	High fertility	92
Undernutrition in children	64	Low rate of population growth	53	Adolescent fertility	73	Malaria	88
Maternal mortality	62			Overweight and obesity	67	Adolescent fertility	82
Size of working-age population	61			Pattern of spatial distribution	64	High rate of population growth	80
Life expectancy at birth	56			Life expectancy at birth	63	Irregular migration	78
Pattern of spatial distribution	55			Size of working-age population	61	Size of working-age population	76
Population ageing	54			Malaria	53	Pattern of spatial distribution	75
				High fertility	52	Non-communicable diseases	63

Overweight and obesity (96 per cent) and non-communicable diseases (94 per cent) were the two most common major concerns of Governments in developed countries in 2011. Comparatively, smaller proportions of Governments in developing countries considered overweight and obesity (67 per cent) and non-communicable diseases (83 per cent) as major

concerns. A higher proportion of Governments in developing countries (82 per cent) than in developed countries (73 per cent) considered HIV/AIDS a major concern, whereas all Governments in least developed countries considered it to be a major concern.

Sixty-five per cent of Governments in developed countries viewed the level of fertility as too low. In contrast, 52 per cent of Governments in developing countries and 92 per cent in least developed countries viewed the fertility level as too high. Globally, population ageing was considered a major concern by 54 per cent of Governments, but that percentage was much higher in developed countries (88 per cent) than in developing countries (44 per cent).

Levels of child mortality, undernutrition in children and maternal mortality were considered unacceptable by more than three quarters of Governments in developing countries, compared with only about one fourth of Governments in developed countries. Tuberculosis was considered a major concern by about four fifths of Governments in developing countries, compared with less than two fifths of Governments in developed countries. Malaria was considered a major concern by 53 per cent of Governments in developing countries and by 88 per cent in least developed countries, but no developed-country Government considered malaria as a major concern.

There was little variation by level of development in the percentage of Governments that considered irregular migration as a major concern, ranging from 73 per cent among developing countries to 77 per cent among developed countries. Similarly, Governments that reported the size of their working-age population as a major concern varied little by level of development.

Among least developed countries, more than 90 per cent of Governments viewed HIV/AIDS, child mortality, violence against women, life expectancy at birth, tuberculosis, undernutrition in children, maternal mortality, and high fertility, in that order, as major concerns or at unacceptable levels.