



## **Expert Group Meeting: Population Dynamics and Climate Change**

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### **Population Issues and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)**

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#### **Abstract**

Adapting to climate change will entail a variety of responses, including policies to improve management of climate related risks by enhancing adaptive capacity while at the same time easing off pressure on resources. The pressure on resources has been linked to a number of causes, key among them population dynamics. Thus, adaptation policies that consider interventions aimed at slowing and stabilizing the rate of population growth may yield “double-dividend”- opportunity to meet people's livelihood needs while protecting the environment.

This paper reviews 39 National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) submitted by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC), identifying the countries' priority adaptation actions. The review is intended to provide an acknowledgement of how population issues are addressed as part of the LDCs adaptation agenda. It is found that there is near-universal recognition among the NAPAs of the importance of population considerations as a central pillar in climate change adaptation. Almost all the NAPAs link high and rapid population growth to climate change while some make explicit linkages between climate change and population policy. However, this appreciation is not matched with a proportional identification of adaptation interventions; indeed only a few of the NAPAs identify, among their priority actions, projects that contain elements of population policy in general and family/planning reproductive health (FP/RH) in particular.

The paper calls for increased support for efforts that lead to more appreciation, identification, and implementation of FP/RH interventions within the NAPAs framework. It proposes some activities to achieve this objective which include mainstreaming of FP/RH and climate change into national development plans and capacity building and raising awareness on FP/RH climate change linkages at the national and global levels. This may increase the chances of countries identifying FP/RH interventions in their periodic prioritization and ranking of priority actions for their NAPAs. Furthermore, the paper calls for a targeted focus by engaging the NAPA Teams in the countries that have clearly identified FP/RH projects in their NAPAs with a view to expediting the development of these projects into full size projects ready for implementation.

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