

CHAPTER 11

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

11.1 Introduction

This chapter is a wrap up to this report. It gives comments on the review and brings together the diverse aspects of population and development covered into an agenda for implementation in the national population programmes. This is of paramount importance at a time when Kenya has poorly performing health indicators and a stagnant FP prevalence. In such as scenario, the role of a research agenda to bring in fresh insights cannot be overemphasised.

11.2 Summary

This section gives a summary of the report in terms of methodologies, issues, findings, recommendations, gaps and research agenda.

11.2.1 Methodologies

Most reviewed studies used quantitative methods of data analysis using KDHS and census data, supplemented by primary data collected through interviews, structured questionnaires and Focused Group Discussion (FGD). Some studies used quantitative and qualitative methods; only a few studies exclusively used the qualitative method.

11.2.2 Research Issues

Population structure and growth studies addressed population profile: size, composition and distribution. Also covered were levels, trends and differentials of fertility. Mortality and morbidity works are mainly on infant and child mortality, emphasizing survival. HIV/AIDS control and management, projections, impacts and policy interventions received much attention.

Mobility and migration researchers mainly covered reasons and impact of migration, linkage between migration and poverty; household,

socio-economic and demographic health characteristics of migrants. Socio-cultural and economic issues were further classified under poverty, family, nuptiality, employment, food security, and nutrition and healthcare services. Further, housing, safety and security, aging, disability, Female Circumcision (FC), drugs and substance abuse, commercial sex workers, corruption and land use systems were included here.

Researchers on gender perspectives covered inequality, inequity and disparities in socio-economic status. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and research works included relationship between job market and school curricular, training, channels of disseminating Family Planning (FP) information, and challenges facing researchers. Finally, Institutional framework studies examined policies, programmes, procedures, and institutional management, financing mechanism of public services, partnerships and networking.

11.2.3 Findings

The main findings in this exercise indicate that Kenya has a young population, and a recorded decline in growth rate, but it still remains one of the highest globally. On fertility, women with higher levels of formal education have fewer children. In general, the health indicators have shown a continuous decline, casting doubt on the country's ability to realize the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Kenya has reduced HIV/AIDS prevalence of 6.7% (KDHS, 2003), but over 2 million people are infected and more than 500 people succumb to the pandemic daily. Migration was also found to be a strategy to escape poverty. Studies confirmed usefulness of Natural Growth Rate

(NGR) method in computing migration rate in stable populations.

On socio-cultural and economic issues, the greatest challenge is widespread poverty. Family instability and declining extended family role contribute to child abuse and neglect. There is high unemployment and lack of professional skills among the under 34 years. Drug and substance abuse is a major problem especially among the youth.

Women's contribution to national development has been taken for granted. They have no control over economic resources, but assume more responsibilities than men. Their level of empowerment is, therefore, low. Further, there seems to be little hope of womankind considering the low status of the girl-child reviewed from the studies and respondents.

On IEC and research, it was found that Kenya has made great strides in education. The liberalization of education has led to more competition especially between private schools. However, demand for education has greatly outpaced capacity of education institutions. Mass media was identified as important source of public population information. The studies warn that generally, people believe that what is reported is true.

Reportedly, poverty has causal-effect on environmental degradation, while population growth places undue pressure on resources. Researches on institutional framework established that policies and programmes guide public action. Government of Kenya (GOK) is improving public facilities, which are supplemented by mushrooming private health institutions. It was also found that partnerships have been formed in this field.

11.2.4 Research Recommendations

The research recommendations focused on national economic improvement. For example, low population density regions should be made more attractive for development activities. A key

recommendation is to intensify Family Planning Programmes (FPP) and enforce Universal Primary Education (UPE) especially for girls which impacts on mortality levels, delays marriage and family formation should be assured and their socio-economic status improved. On mortality and morbidity, it is proposed that quality and efficiency of pre and post-natal care be improved. HIV/AIDS is a major development problem in Kenya. There is need to avoid denial, break the silence that surrounds the pandemic and make it a discussion subject in schools, workplaces and homes.

Sometimes, migration succeeds in improving women's status from extreme poverty and access to resources in spite of the numerous cultural and structural barriers, which should be addressed through deliberate, gender sensitive, programmed migrations. Mobile populations should also be addressed in decision-making fora. On socio-cultural issues, it was noted that there are key challenges facing Kenyans' reversal of rising levels of poverty and income disparities. Design of policy interventions to increase productivity for sustainable development and poverty reduction is recommended. Community participation in school management is further recommended as a basic education policy principle. This will ensure that educational providers dispense all inclusive; life long and quality education capable of spurring better living standards for the current and future generations.

11.2.5 Research Gaps

The main research gaps that comprise the agenda include regional disparities in demographic indicators, impact evaluation of past and existing programmes, and policy priorities on *Population and Development*. There is need to study and mitigate the widening gap between knowledge and practice in such areas as FP, and HIV/AIDS.

Compilers of this research agenda are convinced that quality research is essential for meaningful and sustainable development. It is therefore necessary for identified gaps to be bridged and

Population and Development issues tackled based on empirical evidence.

11.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to sustain the implementation of this agenda and development of others in future:

- From the review, the compilers of this agenda propose that NCAPD reduces the period between the development of research agenda from ten to five years. This is in view of the interest that researchers have in this field and consequent literature to be reviewed.
- Through its coordination role, NCAPD should continue to involve stakeholders in the implementation of the Agenda. The Agency should lead all stakeholders to contemplate a national commitment to research in selected key priority areas suggested in this agenda, with particular emphasis on development and sustenance of a network of researchers. In this regard, research themes developed by researchers independently will also be consistent with priorities set in the national agenda.
- The research agenda and related activities may be plotted on a timeline to help in knowing whether the implementation of the agenda is on track.
- Immediate measures should be taken to raise awareness, readership and support for the agenda among all stakeholders. Efforts should be made to ensure that the wider community appreciates the importance of research for policy development and implementation. Agenda should also remain open for participation of all interested parties, including individuals, public institutions, NGOs and the private sector.
- This research agenda should regularly be reviewed and updated, taking into account the progress and emerging issues over time as new knowledge and understanding emerges with time to make it an ongoing “*process*” not simply a “*product*”. This will be important especially for areas that yielded insufficient findings. We hope that this agenda will encourage more research and development of stronger population policies and programmes that will eventually lead to enhanced development. The results of the review of the agenda should be available to inform the ongoing research by to all interested parties.
- Have round tables involving all stakeholders for development of policy dialogues, elimination of bottlenecks for collaboration and development of proposed research priority areas. For example, have donor consortiums on *Population and Development* research initiatives to agree on priority areas and issues requiring urgent research. NCAPD could identify some areas that may require some pilot studies that would eventually lead to fundable national studies.
- Create a database of potential bodies that can fund research initiatives including the South-South Initiative and bodies such as: WHO, UNFPA, NGOs, Private Foundations and individuals. Funding could also be secured through support provided by way of expertise and training. Kenya would therefore, strengthen the technical and other capacities of relevant institutions and individuals to collect, analyze, and package *Population and Development* information and ensure smooth information flow between various users. This would act as a powerful stimulus in reinforcing the commitment of more organizations in contributing to more broad based foundations and to fund more research on *Population and Development*.
- Resources should be sourced to ensure facilitation of a nationally-coordinated research effort to implement the agreed agenda. This can be done by establishing a *Population and Development Research Fund*

to help researchers gather updated research findings and to avoid the current over-reliance on KDHS data and other types of secondary data which may partly be attributed to lack of funding. Researchers should also be encouraged to exploit organizational secondary databases.

- Have more participatory researches, which involve different organisations including communities. In addition, more multi-disciplinary and applied researches are encouraged because most *Population and Development* related problems require understanding from different perspectives.
- It takes planned efforts to get research results to the people who can benefit from them because results that only reside in a library do not help. There is need, therefore, to identify the key concerns for a particular research and ensure timely analysis and disseminate research results in different languages including local languages. Their replication should also be encouraged.
- Stakeholders should be invited to revise their research policies and priorities in *Population and Development* in the context of the national agenda with a view to effectively contributing to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in this field.
- Research infrastructure should be strengthened and capacity improved by drawing strengths from networks of relevant national and international scientific research bodies such as UAPS, Condesria and IDRC, African Population and Research Centre (APHRC) in exchange of information, advanced research methodologies, archival data and case studies.
- Efforts should be made to publish findings in given broad areas into text books, journals, magazines that can be accessed by more people.

- NCAPD should initiate an annual research conference where awards on the “*best research practices*” under various categories would be presented. Stakeholders should be invited to support such an event in terms of organization and contribution of financial or non-financial awards to be given out. This would facilitate improvement of the quality of research. NCAPD, with assistance from other stakeholders could also organize research workshops and seminars to update the skills of the researchers for better outputs.
- NCAPD must devise new strategies of facing emerging challenges of integrating population issues into national development and enhancing political commitment to population and development issues.

These recommendations are aimed at facilitating quality researches.

11.4 Conclusion

From this agenda, the *Population and Development* research community has grown in the last decade. It is apparent that interest in research is expanding and different research methodologies have variously been used. This has to some extent been facilitated by technological advances as shown by the popular use of the computer and Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS).

The compilers of this *Population and Development* research agenda were convinced that without quality research, that yields quantifiable impact in this field, there could be no meaningful development. Most works reviewed a concentration in a few areas especially fertility and socio-cultural and economic broad areas. Population growth and structure and migration researches are wanting in terms of quantity. Most studies have also shown a strong relationship between demographic indices and socio-economic development. Many studies have also used very small samples. The databases suited for multi-disciplinary studies in Kenya such as

the KDHS and censuses are relatively few. It is important to also note that some population sub-groups may not be adequately captured when such large databases are used. For example, sub-population groups of the minorities such as the disabled and the elderly may need to be studied through in-depth studies because small samples might not be generalized to the rest of population with high precision.

Therefore, a combination of studies using small and large samples and subsequent development of large databases is recommended because there is need to also tackle *Population and Development* issues from a broader perspective and even more importantly, for researchers to sometimes take into account broad and interrelated contexts.