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Monitoring of population programmes focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

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I. Introduction

1.   The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in response to the topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/55. The special theme for the forty-first session of the Commission was finalized in its decision 2006/101.

2.   The report examines the unprecedented transformation of world population from rural to urban, brought about by migration from rural areas to cities and the natural increase of the urban population, as well as the reclassification of settlements that were previously considered rural. It examines the economic, social, demographic and environmental implications of urbanization and describes some common misconceptions about urban areas. It also presents a call to action in order to unleash the potential of urban growth. The report describes the programmatic work of UNFPA to assist countries throughout the world in responding to the challenges of rapid urbanization, especially in the areas of policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy.

II. The urban transformation

3.   This year, for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas. More than 10 years ago, UNFPA predicted in its report *State of World Population 1996 — Changing Places: Population, Development and the Urban Future* that the growth of cities would be the single largest influence on development in the twenty-first century. This is indeed the case today. In 2008, about 3.3 billion people are estimated to be living in towns and cities.[1] The number and proportion of urban dwellers will continue to grow rapidly. The urban population is expected to reach 4.9 billion in 2030. At the same time, the world's rural population will decrease by about 28 million between 2005 and 2030. At the global level, all future population growth is expected to be in urban areas.

4.   Globally, 29 per cent of the world's population was urban in 1950, increasing to 37 per cent in 1975 and 49 per cent in 2005. By 2030, 60 per cent of the world's population will be living in urban areas. Urbanization is an inevitable phenomenon.

5.   There are marked differences in the level and pace of urbanization among the regions. Africa and Asia are currently the least urbanized regions, but by 2030 they will have the most urban dwellers. In fact, most of the urban growth will be in developing countries. The scale of ongoing urban growth is unprecedented in history. The urban population of Africa and Asia is expected to double between 2000 and 2030. It will also continue to grow, although more slowly, in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result, developing countries will have 80 per cent of the world's urban population by 2030. In the developed world, the urban population will

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[1] Statistics in this section of the report are taken from UNFPA, 2007, *State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth* and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2006, *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2005 Revision.*

continue to grow, but at a much slower pace, increasing from 870 million to 1.01 billion from 2000 to 2030.

III. Implications for development

6.   The urban transformation has significant economic, social, demographic and environmental implications. The phenomenon of urbanization is particularly significant because it is happening mostly in developing countries and the increases in urban population are very large and occurring very rapidly.

7.   Urbanization can play a positive role in social and economic development. Cities generally have greater potential for reducing poverty than rural areas. As the main centres of economic growth in most countries, cities account for a larger share of national economic production. Proximity and concentration result in economies of scale, which means that cities can provide cheaper and better access to basic infrastructure and social and health services for their populations. Cities provide more access to the benefits of technology and globalization than is typical in rural areas. There is also more potential for interaction and social organization in cities. Social mobility commonly accompanies urban migration.

8.   To benefit from the advantages of cities, countries will need to respond to the new realities with appropriate policies and programmes to address unplanned urban growth in a proactive manner, building on its dynamism to reduce poverty and promote sustainability.

9.   Addressing these challenges is an urgent development priority with implications for global economic growth, poverty alleviation, population stabilization and environmental sustainability. Issues such as addressing the needs of the poor, improving housing and living conditions, ensuring access to basic social services and generating employment must be addressed with a culture-, gender- and rights-based approach.

10.   The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[2] urged Governments to strengthen their capacity to respond to the pressures caused by rapid urbanization by revising and reorienting the agencies and mechanisms for urban management as necessary and ensuring the wide participation of all population groups in planning and decision-making on local development. The Programme of Action further called on Governments to respond to the needs of all citizens, including urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters. The Millennium Declaration called attention to urban poverty and urged the international community to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020.[3]

11.   Rapid urbanization brings with it a host of new challenges and requires the development of sound public policy to ensure that the needs of all in society are

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[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap.I, resolution 1, annex.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 19.

adequately met. Sound urban management and planning ahead for future urban growth are essential to unleash the potential of urban growth.

12. There are many misconceptions and myths about cities. The most important one is the widespread belief among policymakers that urbanization is inherently bad. In fact, urbanization has many potential advantages. Cities typically offer more employment opportunities and better information, communications and technology. They provide more opportunities for educational and cultural enrichment, as well as empowerment of women and youth. Cities also offer better access to health facilities and basic services. The density and concentration found in cities is necessary for the preservation of rural biodiversity. This explains why migrants typically express a preference for city life over the rural life they left behind. People continue to flock to cities in search of opportunities. Social mobility commonly accompanies urban migration. Moreover, remittances sent by urban dwellers to families in rural areas help alleviate rural poverty and facilitate rural development.

13. Another aspect of the anti-urban bias is the common misconception that rural-to-urban migration can, and should, be stopped. Indeed, most debate centres on how to prevent urban growth rather than how to cope with it. The fact is that most policymakers, concerned with the speed and magnitude of growth, are increasingly set against urbanization and urban growth. The real issue is not that cities grow too fast, but that Governments are not prepared to absorb urban growth. Draconian controls and evictions simply do not work. People will continue to migrate and to live in cities because they perceive the advantages of living in urban areas. Preventing migration increases poverty in both rural and urban areas.

14. It is commonly believed that urban growth is due primarily to migration from rural to urban areas. In fact, most urban growth, 60 per cent, is actually due to natural increase, or an excess of births over deaths. As a country urbanizes, natural increase predominates because there are more people in urban areas and because the pool of potential migrants is reduced. Forty per cent of urban growth is due to a combination of rural-to-urban migration and the reclassification of rural areas.

15. Another common misconception is that most urban growth occurs in mega-cities of 10 million or more inhabitants. In fact, most growth occurs in smaller cities. The majority of urbanites live in cities of fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. In 2005, only 9.3 per cent of the world's urban population lived in mega-cities. This trend is not expected to change. In fact, in 2015, 9.4 per cent of the population will be living in mega-cities.

16. It is commonly believed that the poor are a small minority in cities. The fact is that in developing countries, the poor make up a large proportion of city growth. Poverty is currently increasing faster in cities than in rural areas. One billion people already live in slums, most of them in the developing world. Poverty, begging and homelessness are common in many cities throughout the world. Poor housing conditions cause much of human misery. Years of urban mismanagement have resulted in overcrowding, lack of public services, lack of clean water, lack of sanitation and inadequate infrastructure in many cities in developing countries.

17. The problem is that urban policies often do not address the needs of the poor effectively, yet future urban growth will mainly involve poor people. The voices of the poor are seldom heard, slum-dwellers are usually excluded from decision-making, the poor are marginalized; cities are typically planned for a minority. City-

dwellers who are better off financially are often the beneficiaries of programmes devised for the urban poor.

IV. Unleashing the potential of urban growth

18.   Urbanization and urban growth are inevitable. The primary source of urban growth comes from natural increase within the cities themselves. Also, it is difficult to stop the flow of migrants who come from the countryside to seek better opportunities in urban areas. Cities are not just about slums, social unrest and traffic congestion: they are places of opportunity and hope. Indeed, there is no significant economic growth without urbanization. Although urban areas have their problems, including crime, pollution and overcrowding, the potential benefits of cities far outweigh the disadvantages. One of the main reasons that cities are not currently taking full advantage of their potential is poor governance.

19.   The challenge is to learn how to exploit the possibilities that cities offer. First and foremost, it is necessary to dispel stereotypes and common misconceptions about cities. Policymakers must accept the inevitability of urban growth. Coping with the growth of cities requires a proactive attitude. Given the fast pace of urbanization in developing countries, reacting after the fact is no longer an option. A longer-term vision is essential to plan ahead for the social and sustainable use of urban space. Shelter is the most critical aspect of poor people's insertion into cities. The poor are the ones most affected by unregulated land markets. It is important to ensure minimally serviced and secure land so that the poor have security of tenure. Dealing with haphazard spontaneous slum growth after it has taken shape and established itself is much more costly, both financially and in terms of human suffering.

20.   It is essential to contest incorrect policies and suggest better approaches. Anti-urban policies must be replaced by proactive measures in order to break the cycle of poverty. Policies must be designed in accordance with the expressed needs of diverse demographic groups in cities, especially organizations of the urban poor. Smart, foresighted policies can unleash the positive potential of urban growth and contribute to poverty reduction. Good data for informed decision-making, demographic analysis and projections should be used to anticipate and quantify urban growth and foresee the spatial needs of the poor. Urban growth in small and medium-sized cities offers the most flexibility for effective action and has the greatest need for support.

21.   The location and form of city growth will make a significant difference for the environment. It is essential to formulate policies for the sustainable use of urban space. Programmes must be put in place to ensure housing and basic social services to meet the needs of all. Policies aimed at improving shelter have a significant impact on poverty reduction. Urban water and sewage treatment improve health and reduce mortality. The anti-migration approach that still prevails in many countries should be replaced with policies that promote social development, investments in health and education, and empowerment of women. The urban poor should be encouraged to become involved in decision-making that affects them.

22.   Policies that address urban growth should not come at the expense of rural areas. Indeed, the successful development of one sector automatically benefits the other.

V. Population programmes to address the challenges of population distribution, urbanization and internal migration

23.   The United Nations Population Fund supports key population, urbanization and sustainable development activities at the global, regional and country levels. UNFPA seeks to influence public policy to respond to the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and to meet the needs of all persons, especially the poor and most vulnerable. The Fund seeks to raise awareness of the interrelationships among global population growth, demographic dynamics, urbanization, the environment, sustainable development and poverty reduction. UNFPA encourages policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy as part of a good strategy for policy and programmatic support. The Fund has a rights-based and culture- and gender-sensitive approach.

24.   UNFPA facilitates policy dialogue on addressing the implications of rapid urban growth among all stakeholders, advocates for the incorporation of population and urbanization issues into national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies, and supports initiatives to improve data, research and institutional capacity for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating population policies and programmes to address the challenges of rapid urbanization and to meet the needs of all, especially the urban poor.

25.   UNFPA encourages the inclusion of the urban poor in decision-making in matters that concern them. The Fund advocates for the empowerment of women and their participation in sustainable urban development. It supports activities that promote access to basic social services, including health care, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and shelter for all.

26.   UNFPA continues to provide directed policy, advocacy and technical support at critical policy, programme and monitoring levels to ensure that urbanization is recognized as an important factor in development and that the potential of urban growth is realized.

Policy formulation

27.   UNFPA country offices are often called upon to assist Governments in formulating policies and national strategies relating to population distribution, internal migration and urbanization. For example, in Benin, UNFPA supported the formulation of a population policy that addresses, inter alia, urbanization and migration issues. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the convening of a national symposium on migration. In Cambodia, UNFPA seeks to update policymakers on the latest development trends and share best practices for timely and evidence-based policymaking. UNFPA in Cambodia sits as an observer on the recently established inter-ministerial Task Force on Migration, which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The Task Force was organized to facilitate information exchange, strengthen policy development and implementation, and assist in the coordination of interventions by national and international institutions in the area of migration. One of the Fund's governmental implementing partners, the National Committee for Population and Development, has a seat in the Office of the Council

of Ministers and is in a prime position to influence national policy debate in this area.

28. In Ethiopia, UNFPA participated in supporting the Government in the formulation of the national development plan — the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (2005/6-2009/10). The UNFPA country office in Ethiopia has been supporting the Government in the implementation of the national population policy since its inception, in 1993. For example, it has supported the consultative meetings for the establishment of various policy-implementation administrative structures, including the national and regional population councils. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNFPA supported the revision of the National Population and Development Policy, one of the objectives of which was to address rural-to-urban migration by focusing on rural development, including secure land entitlements, investments in education, job creation and improved social services, including health services. The UNFPA publication *State of World Population 2007*, which addressed the challenges of urbanization, was launched in the presence of ministers and some 80 other Government officials. The Committee for Planning and Investment requested a copy of the UNFPA presentation for advocacy purposes. In Mauritania, UNFPA supported the formulation of the country's population policy that addresses migration and urbanization.

29. UNFPA in Nigeria supported the formulation of the country's National Population Policy, which addresses urbanization and internal migration. In Rwanda, UNFPA supported the formulation of the country's population policy that addresses urbanization and internal migration issues. UNFPA also provided support for, and participated in, the formulation of the economic development and poverty reduction strategy and sought to ensure that population issues, including urbanization and internal migration, were an integral part of the national development framework. In Senegal, UNFPA participated in the positioning of migration and urbanization issues within the framework of the poverty reduction strategy papers review. UNFPA in Sierra Leone provides support for the review of the National Population Policy, which will address concerns related to urbanization and internal migration.

Data collection and research

30. UNFPA supports the collection of data and research for evidence-based policy formulation and programme implementation. In the Arab region, UNFPA provides support to the League of Arab States for a project on population and family health that aims to provide ministries of health and other bodies with a reliable databank of up-to-date, high-quality information in the areas of population, health and development for use in formulating social policies, as well as strengthening national capacities to gather and utilize the data. The project's scope includes data on issues such as urban conditions and the well-being of migrants, marginalized groups and refugees. A specific survey was conducted in the Palestinian camps in the Syrian Arab Republic. In Benin, UNFPA supported the Institut national de la statistique et de l'analyse économique in the collection and dissemination of population data, including a study of urban migration and socio-economic characteristics of migrants. UNFPA in Benin works with the Government to incorporate demographic factors into development plans and programmes. A report on the state of the population is produced each year in collaboration with the Government. In 2005, when the theme was migration and development, the report sought to analyse the

linkages between migration, poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. UNFPA in Benin also supported studies using migration and urbanization data from the population census.

31. In Bolivia, UNFPA collaborated in studies addressing urbanization issues and in 2004 provided technical and financial support for the development of a study on internal migration in the country, which is considered the most complete document in this field. UNFPA in Bolivia also supported two studies in two municipalities of La Paz on the process of metropolitanization of the La Paz area and is supporting prospective studies on the demographic impacts of a mega-project on iron-ore mining in the eastern part of the country, which will generate very important internal migration flows. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the collection of data, including on population dynamics and distribution, and thematic studies on migration and urbanization. UNFPA in Burkina Faso also provides technical support for a number of studies, including on rural out-migration, urbanization and poverty and on the dynamics of internal migration. In Burundi, which has suffered from years of conflict resulting in mass displacements of the population, UNFPA is leading international assistance and providing technical support for the long-awaited national census, scheduled to take place in 2008. In Cambodia, UNFPA successfully advocated for more detailed information on migration in the upcoming 2008 census. UNFPA in Cambodia commissioned research on rural-urban migration of youth and its impact on urbanization. The main areas of research, based on interviews with migrant youths and their families in the country of origin, are socio-economic background of migrant households; reasons for migration; social networks of the migrants; integration of migrants in the urban environment and access to services; employment of migrants in the urban areas; and migrants' relationship with the sending household.

32. In Eritrea, UNFPA supported the country in conducting an urban census in 19 areas of the country in 2005 and 2006. UNFPA plans to conduct a study on the interrelationships between urban agriculture, internal migration and poverty reduction in the country. In Ethiopia, UNFPA supported the country in conducting the 2007 population and housing census. The census provided information on urbanization and internal migration issues, serving as a major source of data for national and regional policy and programme formulation. UNFPA was among the major partners supporting the country's demographic and health survey and is currently conducting an in-depth analysis of three major topics of the survey relating to urbanization and internal migration: (a) determinants fuelling the spread of HIV and contributing factors for regional disparities, (b) maternal mortality and (c) gender analysis and reproductive health. UNFPA in Ethiopia is also finalizing a report on a survey assessing gender-based violence in emergency situations in two locations for internally displaced persons.

33. In Honduras, UNFPA supported research on internal migration and its effects on labour market participation and poverty. In Indonesia, UNFPA collaborates in the collection of data on urban issues. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNFPA supported the 2005 reproductive health survey, which was disaggregated by rural and urban areas and provided information about differentials in access to social services. Besides information on such topics as fertility, mortality and family planning, the survey also collects data on, inter alia, household access to electricity, drinking water and material for housing. In Nicaragua, UNFPA supported a number of studies, some of which served as inputs to the National Development Plan

requested by the Technical Secretariat of the presidency, including research on trends in the spatial distribution of the population and internal migration; competitiveness and territorial distribution of economic activities in the country; competitiveness and regional growth; spatial mobility of the population at the beginning of the twenty-first century; changes in the spatial distribution of the population, the urban system and local economic growth from 1995 to 2005; and rural-urban migration and rural development from 1995 to 2005.

34.   In Mauritania, UNFPA supported data collection on migration and urbanization in a number of census rounds. UNFPA in Mauritania also supported in-depth analysis and research on the findings of the Mauritania survey on migration. UNFPA in Mozambique supported research studies on urbanization and migration under a partnership with the Centre for Population Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University. In Pakistan, UNFPA worked with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics to publish a report on urbanization and internal migration in the country; the report was launched with the UNFPA publication *State of World Population 2007*. UNFPA in Pakistan is working with the Population Census Organization on the 2008 census, which will provide new data on the rural and urban population and information on the phenomenon of internal migration and urbanization. In Rwanda, UNFPA supported data collection for the country's census, which provided information on urbanization and internal migration and formed the basis of policy formulation and integration of population in the national development framework. In Senegal, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the demographic health survey and the census that included urbanization and internal migration as important issues.

35.   In Sierra Leone, UNFPA supported the country in conducting the census, the analysis of which includes a monograph on urbanization and migration that is being used, along with other modules, for development planning. UNFPA in Sierra Leone supports the Institute of Population Studies at Fourah Bay College and funds the training of demographers. UNFPA in Viet Nam supported policy research to better understand migration in the country and the economic and social conditions in which migrants live. UNFPA provided support to the General Statistical Office to carry out a migration survey in 2004 and published a report entitled "Internal migration in Viet Nam: the current situation", which describes, inter alia, the levels and patterns of internal migration in the country; the decision to migrate; adjustment to life in the place of destination; health, work and income; satisfaction with migration; and migrant links with the home community. UNFPA works to ensure that the 2009 census includes information on migration for social and economic planning.

Capacity-building

36.   UNFPA also promotes capacity-building by supporting training institutions and by providing technical assistance. In Benin, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the analysis of census results, including data on migration. In Brazil, UNFPA supported a number of meetings and training courses for government officials, academia and civil society that addressed the issue of internal migration, including a session on the relationship between urban and social networks and internal migration. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA seeks to strengthen country capacity to collect and analyse data. In Cambodia, UNFPA convened a series of workshops on urbanization and migration in collaboration with the National Committee for

Population and Development. Participants included representatives of key ministries, development agencies, civil society, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders. Among the issues discussed were migration and the informal economy of the urban poor, empowering migrant women in the poor community, urban management, urban poverty, low-income housing, community development and planning, and increased traffic, mobility and congestion in urban areas.

37. In Colombia, UNFPA supported the development of a conceptual and methodological approach to consider the linkages between population factors and environmental, social and economic issues in the context of urban and regional planning and territorial development. UNFPA also assisted in the technical support and training of local staff in several municipalities to use the methodology. The municipality of Sopo was able to redefine the use of its local territory taking into consideration population trends and future scenarios. In Eritrea, UNFPA is the main partner of the National Statistics Office, together with the Government of Norway, and is supporting collaboration with the central region of Asmara in order to establish a civil registration system that will be a source of information on the population in the capital. In Ghana, UNFPA plans to support a proposed study on street vending in Ghana's cities and towns, with specific focus on the socio-economic, sexual and reproductive health dimensions. The study will address the twin problems of urbanization and migration, since most street vendors are migrants. Other studies planned include research on female migration in Ghana to better understand the issues pertaining to this phenomenon, and a major national study on urbanization and development initiated by the National Population Council. In Mauritania, UNFPA supported training for National Statistical Office staff and university researchers.

38. In Mexico, UNFPA seeks to strengthen institutional capacity and civil society participation to formulate integral population and sustainable development policies and strategies at the national and subnational levels and contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequalities. UNFPA in Mexico partnered with the Government, academia and NGOs in various regional projects, including those designed to strengthen institutional and municipal capacity through participatory development planning; increase understanding of sexual and reproductive rights and access to health services for indigenous and migrant women in a number of areas; develop an information system on migration in Oaxaca; analyse the social and economic impact of migratory flows and establish prospective scenarios for urban, economic and social planning; study "floating populations" along the northern and southern borders of the country as well as in the larger metropolitan areas; and develop a conceptual and methodological approach to sustainable development and population aimed at supporting an integral planning model at the local and micro-regional levels. Issues of population distribution, urbanization and internal migration are also included in the next UNFPA country programme for Mexico.

39. UNFPA in Mozambique provides scholarships for the Centre for Population Studies to build the capacity of researchers in the area of migration and urbanization to contribute to the evidence base required by policymakers. In Nicaragua, UNFPA gives short-term scholarships to national university researchers and professors and supports regional experts so that they can provide technical assistance in the development of specific research. In Peru, UNFPA conducted a technical mission with key government officials, including the President of the Council of Ministers,

the Minister for Women and Social Development, the Vice-Minister of Housing, Congressmen and mayors, as well as academics, to discuss the relationship between spatial distribution of the population and delivery of social services. The mission provided a better understanding of the need to promote and strengthen the role of intermediate cities and urban centres. The initiative, which will guide UNFPA technical assistance and will help to better define the strategic direction in this area, has several important ramifications: it will foster the consideration of population dynamics in national planning and policy formulation; promote regional and local planning that encourages concentration of the population in provincial mid-level urban centres as a means of more cost-effective delivery of reproductive health services; encourage the strategic localization of social service hubs in rural areas, with special consideration given to mountainous and jungle-type environments; and help develop a capacity-building programme that would help the Government foresee areas of potential quick economic development, such as main production centres, that will have a pull effect on population in more depressed areas.

40. In Rwanda, UNFPA supported the training of national planners on the integration of population issues, including urbanization and internal migration, in the national development framework. In Senegal, thanks to the efforts of UNFPA, the curriculum of the Institute of Population, Development and Reproductive Health of the Cheikh Anta Diop University, supported by UNFPA includes migration and urbanization issues. UNFPA in Senegal seeks to increase knowledge of those phenomena for a better understanding of population dynamics and the planning of development interventions, especially as they affect poverty and vulnerability in urban settings. In Viet Nam, UNFPA supported the recruitment of international and national consultants to assist the General Statistical Office in designing the migration survey and to assist other national research institutions in analysing migration data.

Advocacy

41. UNFPA in Brazil launched the Fund's *State of World Population 2007* to raise awareness of the importance of addressing the challenges of urbanization. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA used the occasion of the national symposium on migration to advocate for the International Conference on Population and Development agenda in the area of migration and call attention to the necessity of including migration issues in development plans and programmes. In Cambodia, UNFPA is collaborating with the National Committee for Population and Development and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the development of a policy brief or fact sheet on urbanization that covers such topics as indicators of urbanization, urban population growth and economic activities, urban problems, urban migration trends, urban poverty, urban environment and services, and urban governance. UNFPA in Cambodia was interviewed by the national English-language newspaper on the topic of urbanization. In the Caribbean, UNFPA advocates for the inclusion of population issues, including urbanization and internal migration, into development plans, strategies and frameworks. In China, UNFPA implements advocacy activities relating to reproductive health among migrants. These activities include information, education and communication materials concerning HIV prevention, in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.

42. In Eritrea, UNFPA advocates for an understanding of the country's rural and urban development strategies and their consequences for urbanization and internal migration, and the importance of understanding the population and development equation and including it in policy formulation and development planning. UNFPA used the opportunity of the launch of the *State of World Population 2007* report to raise awareness of the importance of the phenomenon of urbanization for national and regional development. The UNFPA country office prepared a programme update entitled "Eritrea at the dawn of an urban millennium" for the press, quoting global urbanization statistics from the UNFPA report, describing the UNFPA mandate in this area, documenting urban growth in Eritrea, analysing the causes and consequences of rapid urbanization and describing initiatives to address the challenges posed by this phenomenon undertaken by the Government.

43. In Honduras, UNFPA prepared a report on urbanization issues in the country that was distributed on the occasion of the launch of the *State of World Population 2007* report. In Mauritania, UNFPA also used the occasion of the launch of *State of World Population 2007* to raise awareness about migration and urbanization issues. UNFPA in Pakistan works to highlight the needs of the urban poor and advocate for increased availability of and access to social services for the population in these areas. In the Russian Federation, UNFPA supported the launch of *State of World Population 2007*, which received good media coverage. UNFPA in Rwanda used the occasion of the launch of *State of World Population 2007* to support the preparation of a brochure detailing the situation of urbanization and its relationship to the current trends and characteristics of internal migration in the country, including measures that need to be taken to ensure that the two factors do not continue to pose a major challenge to the country's development effort. The brochure was shared with development practitioners and policymakers. The launch of the report provided an opportunity to raise awareness of urbanization and internal migration challenges at the provincial and district levels. UNFPA in Viet Nam supports improved policy dialogue and advocacy on migration, especially by supporting the parliament in conducting a series of policy advocacy workshops for senior Government officials on migration issues, the effect of current policies on the implementation of migrants' rights and the linkages between migration and poverty reduction.

Other

44. UNFPA has a joint project with the Arab Urban Development Institute to integrate population and poverty reduction policies in development planning and forums. It aims to broaden the information base on poverty reduction and population, raise awareness of and increase policy dialogue on these issues and strengthen regional capacities in the areas of poverty reduction, population and urban development. Activities include a subregional assessment of town experiences in addressing population and poverty and the preparation of a number of papers addressing, inter alia, various aspects of poverty in Arab towns, the recommendations of which will enable city planners, local governments and decision makers to formulate and monitor poverty issues related to urban development.

45. To address the reproductive health implications of rapid urbanization, UNFPA in Bangladesh co-finances the Urban Primary Health Care Project to support the institutionalization and delivery of a full range of reproductive health-care services.

Efforts include capacity-building for programme managers and service providers and the strengthening of service delivery points in the areas of neonatal care, family planning, reproductive tract and sexually transmitted infections, prevention of HIV/AIDS and management of cases of violence against women. The project also supports adolescent and youth-friendly services, strengthens advocacy and behaviour-change communication activities at the clinic and community levels, with special emphasis on slums, ensures proper record keeping, reporting and quality assurance in respect of service delivery at the health-care centres, and seeks to strengthen counselling and the provision of reproductive health information. UNFPA also has a project with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association to increase reproductive health education, make health services readily available, and increase awareness of reproductive rights and gender-related issues among garment workers, most of whom are poor women who migrated from rural areas to metropolitan Dhaka in search of jobs. UNFPA in Burundi supports NGO and mobile clinics and provides health equipment to returned refugees and internally displaced persons in Burundi with its own funds as well as with emergency relief funds provided by donors.

46. In Ethiopia, UNFPA addresses the reproductive health and HIV-related needs of populations displaced by natural disasters and conflicts. Together with the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Turner Foundation, UNFPA provides support to adolescent girls in the rural Amhara region to avoid child marriage, and also provides support to those who are already married. The programme seeks to avert the high rural-urban migration rate of young girls and adolescent women, who often end up as sex workers in big cities and nearby towns. UNFPA also supports a joint project with DFID and the Turner Foundation that targets out-of-school girls aged 10 to 19, most of them migrants, who live away from parents and family members and are unlikely to be reached by current programmes. Initiatives for internally displaced persons provide assistance to people chronically displaced by floods in the Amhara region, including in the areas of HIV prevention; reproductive health information and services; distribution of condoms, clean delivery kits and contraceptives; and training.

47. UNFPA in Sierra Leone has programmes that seek to provide reproductive health care, services and information to various mobile populations, including members of uniformed services, young recruits, private security personnel and peacekeepers; seafarers and fisherwomen and their host communities; and internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and their host communities. The various programmes provide information on and services for the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections; HIV/AIDS counselling and testing; peer-education training on HIV, sexually transmitted infections, gender-based violence and human rights; reproductive health literacy; and family planning.

48. A number of UNFPA country offices are not undertaking activities related to urbanization and internal migration at present because these issues are not considered a priority in every country. Some country offices plan to address urbanization and internal migration issues in their country programmes in the near future.

V. Conclusion

49.   Urbanization and urban growth are inevitable. Natural increase is already the main source of growth, and rural people will continue to flock to cities in search of better opportunities. Cities will continue to provide more favourable settings to solve social, economic and environmental problems. They will also continue to be more conducive to social change. The challenge is to move away from the negative stereotypes and the negative policies of the past and promote measures that take into account rapid urban growth and the needs of the urban poor.

50.   A good strategy for policy and programmatic support to ensure that urbanization and internal migration are taken into account in national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies should encompass policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy. Policy dialogue among and within Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs, civil society and the private sector and advocacy are essential to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the importance of formulating proactive policies to plan for urban growth. Strengthening the national capacity of developing countries to address the challenges of rapid urban growth is essential.

51.   There is an urgent need for reliable and timely data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic status and health status for evidence-based policy formulation and programme planning, monitoring and evaluation. There is also a need to encourage and advance culture- and gender-sensitive research to identify emerging issues, provide evidence for effective policies and adopt recommendations. The dissemination of data and research findings and the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices are important components of institutional capacity-building in this area.

52.   Urbanization, when accompanied by appropriate policies, can be beneficial for development. Cities are places of opportunity and hope. Migrants generally express a preference for cities over the rural settlements they left behind. The potential benefits of cities far outweigh the disadvantages. Cities offer significant opportunities to enhance development and promote sustainability. Exploiting the potential of urban growth requires a proactive attitude and approach. Urbanization should be an integral part of national and global efforts to reduce poverty. Good governance and sound urban policies can serve to reduce poverty and gender inequality and to promote sustainable development. Future plans must have an approach that integrates cities and rural areas. Both urban and rural development are necessary, and addressing both in an integrated way will provide the best chances for success.

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