



FINANCIAL RESOURCE FLOWS FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 2002





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Foreword

Population dynamics and reproductive health are central to development and must be an integral part of development planning and poverty reduction strategies. Promoting the goals of the United Nations Conferences, including those of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to health, education and gender, is vital for laying the foundation to reduce poverty in many of the poorest countries. Indeed, without a firm commitment to population, reproductive health and gender issues, it is unlikely that any of the ICPD targets or the MDGs will be effectively met.

But the ICPD goals and the MDGs cannot be achieved without the financial means to do so. Resource mobilization was therefore an important part of the ICPD agenda. The ICPD Programme of Action estimated that in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the implementation of programmes in the area of population dynamics, reproductive health, including those related to family planning, maternal health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, as well as programmes that address the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data, would cost \$17 billion by the year 2000. Approximately two thirds of the projected costs was expected to come from developing countries and one third, or \$5.7 billion, from the international donor community.

Financing for population and development calls for a partnership among all stakeholders. At the Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to develop a global partnership for development, especially as it relates to funding, including the fulfillment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product for overall official development assistance (ODA). Building on the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus in 2002 made it clear that financing development could no longer be business as usual and called for a new partnership between developed and developing countries with mutually reinforcing responsibilities.

Each year, the United Nations Population Fund monitors progress towards the implementation of the ICPD financial targets. Although the targets for 2000 were not met and the gap between the level of resources required and that actually made available remains wide, the figures for 2002 are encouraging: ODA levels increased by 5 per cent over 2001 levels, donor assistance to population increased to \$3.2 billion as compared to \$2.5 billion in 2001, representing 3.65 per cent of ODA as compared to 3.23 per cent and eight donor countries provided over 4 per cent of ODA to population, as compared to only three in 2001. Developing countries, as a group, met a large part of their commitment, although only a handful of countries account for most of the domestic resources mobilized. Most developing countries still are not able to generate sufficient domestic resources to implement their population programmes and are heavily dependent upon international assistance.

The challenge before the international community is to mobilize sufficient resources to fully implement the ICPD agenda and the goals of the Millennium Declaration. A much stronger commitment to pledging and an acceleration of resource mobilization advocacy efforts are essential to ensure that sufficient funding is available from both donor and developing countries to achieve the financial targets.

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