

Climate Change: Time to “Think Family Planning”

An advocacy
toolkit for family
planning advocates

Prepared by:



Population &
Sustainability
Network

Members of:



Introduction

In *Climate Change: Time to “Think Family Planning”*, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Population & Sustainability Network highlight that family planning is a critical, human rights-based, and cost-effective approach to climate change adaptation and resilience building. The aims of the paper are for national family planning advocates to be better placed to ensure: (a) national development (including climate change) planning processes include greater emphasis on family planning; and (b) more “climate change programmes” include family planning actions, therefore increasing overall investment and action in reproductive health. After defining “climate change” and introducing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 10 arguments are summarised which national family planning advocates are encouraged to employ, to suit their national contexts, to further these aims.

What is climate change?

The United Nations defines it as “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods”.¹ We know that it is greenhouse gases, from human activities, that are the main contributors to climate change, and we are already experiencing significant impacts including changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and more extreme and more frequent weather events.² The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that, “greenhouse gas emissions have increased since the pre-industrial era, driven largely by economic and population growth, and are now higher than ever.”³ On the one hand, it is developed nations which have been the most significant emitters, and bear the greatest responsibility for climate change. On the other hand, it is often low income nations that are impacted most, as they are least able to adapt to climate change.

To effectively, efficiently and equitably respond to and fight climate change, countries must develop comprehensive, mitigation and adaptation strategies. Mitigation actions are measures undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and such actions are most appropriate for developed countries. Adaptation actions are taken to help communities and ecosystems cope better in the context of a changing climate, and will be needed in all countries. Family planning programmes are one form of adaptation measure.

1. UNFCCC. 1992. [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#). 1771 UNTS 107/ATS 2 / 31 ILM 849.

2. UN. 2016. [Climate Action: Why it Matters](#).

3. IPCC. 2014. [Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#). IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP

The Conference of Parties, COP for short, is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**); the UN body charged to deal with climate change. Under the UNFCCC, governments gather each year and share information on national policies and best practices, launch national strategies and cooperate to further Parties' commitments to climate adaptation and mitigation. Civil society is also present to encourage ambitious government climate commitments and ensure implementation.

In December 2015 at COP21, the world took a significant step, when parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a treaty whereby countries have agreed to take action, embedded in their national contexts, towards an agreed long-term goal of holding a global rise in temperature “well below” 2°C⁴, whilst also pursuing efforts to stay below 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement, the most ambitious climate agreement to date, deals with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation, finance and other related issues. The Paris Agreement will enter into force on 4 November 2016, meaning the COP22 focus will be on how to implement the agreement.

Family planning as part of integrated development planning

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, in September 2015, the world has edged towards a greater understanding of the connections between interrelated development challenges. This greater understanding provides national family planning advocates with an added and timely opportunity to highlight the positive impact of family planning, not only in relation to health (SDG3) and gender (SDG5), but also climate action (SDG13). It is likely that many development sectors will begin to argue why their work is of particular cross-sectoral importance, and should be given weight in national development processes, including climate change adaptation plans, and when responding to the SDGs. The sexual and reproductive health sector must not be left behind in this regard, as cross-sectoral partnerships are an additional opportunity to reduce the unmet need for family planning.

The IPCC has highlighted the important role family planning can play in reducing climate change vulnerability, and as a potential adaptation strategy.⁵ This is critical, because the Paris Decision, containing details which were considered unsuitable for inclusion in the Paris Agreement itself, strongly urges developed nations, “to scale up their level of financial support, with a concrete road map to achieve the goal of jointly providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries”.⁶ With family planning projects potentially eligible for climate change funding, if advocates successfully ensure adequate references to family planning in national development processes, it could lead to significant programmatic and funding opportunities.

4. According to IPCC research, a temperature increase of over 2°C would lead to serious consequences, such as a greater frequency of extreme climate events. In 2009, at the global climate change conference in Copenhagen, countries affirmed their determination to keep global warming to 2°C compared to the preindustrial era. Further details are available here: <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/2c-target-result-of-state-contributions/>.

5. IPCC. 2014. [Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability](#).

6. UNFCCC. 2015. [“Adoption of the Paris Agreement”](#).

To date, these opportunities have not materialised, and so advocacy efforts must be focussed to ensure some of the USD 100 billion is directed to reproductive health programmes, which means ensuring greater reference to population growth as a challenge, and family planning as a solution, in national adaptation strategy documents and other national plans. To help advocates promote the connections and be better placed to ensure national development policies include family planning actions, ten arguments are presented below.

Ten arguments

1. Prioritising adaptation strategies with greatest human rights benefits

A rights-based solution to twenty first century challenges should always be followed, and it is a basic human right to be able to choose whether, when, and how many children to have. A range of adaptation strategies will be required to help communities cope with climate change, from improving road surfaces to withstand greater temperatures, to implementing health improvements. Family planning advocates can argue, when seeking to influence national policies, that adaptation strategies most directly protecting and enhancing human rights, should always be prioritised over adaptation strategies with less direct or less significant human rights benefits, such as road surface adaptation.

2. A cost-effective climate adaptation and response strategy

The urgent need to implement climate adaptation strategies means there will be many calls on climate change funding. The most cost-effective strategies, such as family planning, will unsurprisingly have an advantage over less cost effective strategies. According to one estimate, the cost of meeting existing levels of demand for family planning in the United States of America and developing countries is, in the context of USD 100 billion per year, very modest, ranging from USD 3.6 billion to USD4.6 billion per annum (and the funding required for the United States alone would be USD 1 billion of that total).⁷ This represents less than 5% of the annual global spending on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures urged in the Paris Decision. Indeed, this relatively small proportion of funding would remove barriers to family planning in developing countries, which have the greatest unmet need, and in the world's wealthiest country, where barriers to family planning remain and where high levels of consumption lead to particularly high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Providing rights-based voluntary family planning programmes in all these countries would therefore have long-term, sustainable and cost-effective impacts. Family planning advocates can use the following additional arguments. Firstly, research shows that eliminating the unmet need for family planning could contribute between 16-29% of the needed carbon emission reductions to avoid the most disastrous effects of climate change.⁸ Secondly, emissions averted through investments in family planning would cost about \$4.50 per ton of carbon dioxide, compared with

7. Singh, S, J E Darroch, L S Ashford and M Vlasoff. 2009. Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health. New York: Guttmacher Institute and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).; Dennis, S and C Mutunga. 2010. Funding Common Ground: Cost Estimates for International Reproductive Health. Washington, DC: PAI.

8. O'Neill, B. et al. 2010. "Global demographic trends and future carbon emissions." Proceedings of the National Academies of Science. 107 (41) :17521-17526.

more expensive options such as solar power (\$30 per ton) or carbon capture and storage from new coal plants (\$60 per ton).⁹ Family planning is not only cost effective, there are also many knock-on health and other benefits.

3. Climate change and population displacement

Whilst migration is often thought of as a survival strategy for those escaping conflict, it is also a survival strategy for those escaping the impacts of climate change. The number and frequency of global natural disasters is predicted to increase, due to climate change, and so climate change caused migration will also rise. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) states, “With the world’s 82 million South-South migrants forming about 36% of the total stock of migrants, South-South migration is an increasingly significant factor in the economic and social development of many developing countries.”¹⁰ Low income countries must therefore plan for climate change and climate change induced migration, be that migration within a country or between neighbours.

Those forced to endure emergency situations, including migrants, have particular sexual and reproductive health needs. In relation to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported, “Of some 100 million people who were targeted in 2015 with humanitarian aid, an estimated 26 million were women and girls of reproductive age. This is particularly significant, since girls and women are often more greatly affected in both sudden and slow-onset emergencies, and often face diverse sexual and reproductive health challenges.”¹¹ Climate change will increase the number of these emergencies and so will increase the number of displaced people needing sexual and reproductive health services. As stated by the WHO, “Emergencies often reveal pre-existing weaknesses and a lack of resilience in health systems. Crises can often lead to increased levels of violence against women and girls. In addition, more than half of maternal deaths occur in fragile and humanitarian settings.”¹² The sexual and reproductive health of migrants is already a particular concern, climate change will lead to an increase in their number and this must be addressed and planned for in national development processes.

4. An economic argument for family planning as an adaptation strategy

Low income countries face the challenge of needing to simultaneously ensure economic growth, whilst experiencing the effects of climate change hampering those efforts. When there is unmet need for family planning services, maternal and child health is worse and population growth increases, which negatively impacts climate change vulnerability and hampers national economic

9. Wheeler, D and D Hammer. 2010. “[The Economics of Population Policy for Carbon Emissions Reduction in Developing Countries.](#)” CGD Working Paper 229. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development in [Why Population Matters to Climate Change](#).
10. OECD. 2016. “[Migration and Development: South-South Migration](#)”. OECD Development Centre.
11. WHO. 19 September 2015. “[Sexual and reproductive health and rights of refugees and migrants: High-level meeting on refugees and migrants underlines imperative to safeguard health and rights worldwide](#)”.
12. Ibid.
13. In a 2009 study, it was highlighted that 37 out of 41 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) made links between population growth and climate change in their National Adaptation Programmes of Action, 6 recognised family planning/reproductive health as part of a climate adaptations strategy and 2 identified family planning/reproductive health projects as part of a priority adaptation strategy. See Mutunga, C. and Hardee, K. 2009 in Strengthening the link between climate change adaptation and national development plans: Lessons from the case of population in NAPAs in *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, 15(2): 113-126.

development. Economic development is critical in itself and to ensure nations are better placed to adapt to climate change. Indeed, several countries have recognised¹³ “population pressure” as an obstacle to climate change adaptation, and a few have incorporated family planning into national adaptation planning and/or poverty reduction strategies as a result; their lead should be followed.

Of particular importance to many low income countries is that they harness the benefits of the so-called demographic dividend, meaning the accelerated economic growth arising from a significant increase in the ratio of working-age adults relative to dependents. The demographic dividend is a possibility when increased use of family planning reduces fertility. As is stated in a recent report,¹⁴ “The lifetime opportunity costs of adolescent pregnancy - a measure of the annual income adolescent mothers forgo over their lifetime - range from 1% of annual gross domestic product (GDP) in a large country, such as China, to 30% of annual GDP in a smaller economy such as Uganda. If adolescent girls in Brazil and India were able to wait until their early twenties to have children, the increased economic productivity would equal more than US\$3.5 billion and US\$7.7 billion, respectively”. Investment in health is a prerequisite to harnessing the demographic dividend and creating stronger (and therefore more climate resilient) economies.

The United Nations has said, “If left unchecked, climate change will undo a lot of the progress made over the past years in development.”¹⁵ The earlier we implement actions to combat climate change, the less it will cost in the long run. It is not only climate change adaptation planning which should include direct reference to family planning, but nations’ economic development plans too.

NAPAs, NAPs & other plans

At COP7 (2001), climate change adaptation was recognised through the mandate to support Least Developed Countries (LDCs) develop their National Adaptation Programmes of Action, or NAPAs. This process enabled LDCs to identify priority activities responding to their urgent and immediate climate change adaptation needs. All 48 LDCs have finished their respective NAPAs and started to implement their priority adaptation projects.

Under the Cancun Adaptation Framework agreed at COP16 (2010), countries have moved on to National Adaptation Plans, or NAPs, a longer term adaptation plan, compared to the NAPAs. Whilst only LDCs developed NAPAs, all developing countries engage in the NAPs process. In addition to the NAPs process, all countries, be they developing or developed, have further national planning processes. Mainstreaming of family planning as an adaptation strategy in national development, poverty reduction, health, climate change, environmental and other plans, should be a priority for family planning advocates.

14. Starbird, E. et al. 9 June 2016. “[Investing in Family Planning: Key to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)”. In Global Health: Science and Practice.

15. United Nations. 2016. “[Climate Action: Why it matters](#)”.

5. Significant overlap of countries with substantial “unmet need” for family planning and those most threatened by climate change

Currently 225 million women in developing countries would like to delay or avoid pregnancy and cannot get the modern contraception they want. The developing world is therefore a focal region for the sexual and reproductive health sector, but it is also where climate change effects are hardest felt. Developing countries are most at risk from climate change for a variety of reasons. Residents are often more likely to rely directly on natural resources for food security and livelihoods, have limited alternative employment opportunities, and be less likely to have savings. Geographically, Least Developed Countries, such as those in the high fertility Sahel, are already suffering from droughts, and the Small Island Developing States are clearly those most at risk from rising sea levels.

Much climate change funding will therefore be focussed in the countries which are key to the sexual and reproductive health sector. Family planning advocates can therefore use these unfortunate realities, and the significant overlap between countries with “unmet need” and those most at threat from climate change, when seeking “climate change” funding for adaptation measures. In climate “hot spot” countries, around one in four married women would like to avoid pregnancy but are not using a modern method of contraception.¹⁶ The IPCC's recognition of the potential of family planning is key here, as the sexual and reproductive health sector can rely on arguments in existing climate change documentation in support of their call for “climate change funding”. The overall aim should be for an ever increasing number of climate change adaptation programmes to include family planning actions. Inclusion of family planning in national adaptation and other development plans is key to ensure this happens and that new, cross-sectoral partnerships are created.

6. The Paris Agreement: promoting health and gender

The Paris Agreement offers opportunities for family planning advocates, thanks to explicit references to health, gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the text. The right to health is expressly referenced in the Preamble as a principle to “promote and consider”. While the Preamble is not legally binding, Article 7.2, which is, provides that adaptation actions should be “gender-responsive” among other desirable qualities. Furthermore, Article 11, which has an overall aim to enhance the capacity and ability of developing countries to address climate change, provides that all capacity building activities should be participatory and gender-responsive. Family planning advocates are, therefore, well-placed to argue that furthering sexual and reproductive health and rights goals, including voluntary family planning, contributes to furthering Parties' commitments to the Paris Agreement.

16. Population Action International. Why Population matters to climate change. http://pai.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/PAI-1293-Climate-Change_compressed.pdf.

The Sahel

The Sahel is that part of North Africa including parts of Chad, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sudan and it is “among the most chronically vulnerable regions in the world due to many factors, including poverty, population growth, and the variable climate.”¹⁷ It is a region where all the issues in this paper come together to cause a perfect storm. This arid region is particularly vulnerable to climate change, having suffered numerous severe droughts and low rainfall over recent years. These impacts have in turn led to declining agricultural production, and related knock-on effects on food security. As populations grow, due in part to a lack of access to family planning, environmental pressures increase and so does the need to migrate to safety. Government instability in Sahel countries hampers responding to all of these interrelated challenges.

The fertility rate in the Sahel is around 5.¹⁸ Few parts of the world are in greater need of the demographic dividend, many countries suffer from extreme levels of human rights abuse and much of the Sahel suffers from weak health infrastructure. These issues are summarised in a recent publication stating, “Four of the 10 countries with the highest total fertility rates in the world are in the [Sahel]. Contraceptive use by married women is extremely low—for example, less than 2% of married women in Chad use contraception. Continuing this trajectory of high fertility and low contraceptive use will severely undermine these countries’ abilities to respond to social sector needs. [...] In Niger, population growth is 4% annually and will double in just 20 years. “This growth will require a massive investment in schools, health clinics, and job creation for youth,” with additional investment also needed in agriculture and livestock systems to ensure food security.”¹⁹

This combination of climate change, unmet family planning need, population growth, political instability and food insecurity has the potential to manifest in a catastrophic humanitarian disaster. Investing in family planning must be one of the elements of a package of actions to enhance resilience in the region.

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17. Population Reference Bureau. August 2015. “[Building Resilience through Family Planning: A Transformative Approach for Women, Families, and Communities](#)”.
 18. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2015. World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.
 19. Population Reference Bureau. August 2015. “[Building Resilience through Family Planning: A Transformative Approach for Women, Families, and Communities](#)”.

7. Not merely an add-on: funding opportunities

The 2030 Agenda has highlighted how the challenges we face are integrated. One recent article successfully made connections between family planning and each of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG13 on climate action.²⁰ Research estimates that for every US\$1 spent on providing sexual and reproductive health services and meeting the unmet need for modern contraception, \$120 of other benefits are yielded.²¹ The research foresees a ripple effect if sexual and reproductive health services are provided to those who want them, in terms of environmental conservation, more resilient communities, improved food security and decreased poverty.²² It is possible that the adoption of the SDGs will lead to some funders developing their funding streams to be less siloed, and sectors, such as the sexual and reproductive health sector, could benefit from this and be eligible for funding outside of the traditional channels. Family planning advocates can promote the clear and hugely significant cross-sectoral benefits of family planning as an adaptation strategy benefitting multiple sectors. If advocates are unable to persuade policy makers to make clear reference to family planning in national adaptation plans or funding criteria, they should endeavour to include reference to strategies which have multi-sectoral benefits.

8. Not merely an add-on: programmatic and partnership opportunities

Funders often support programmes with a “gender focus”. Programmes placing women’s reproductive health at their core might therefore have an advantage over technological ones with a “gender” add on, almost as an afterthought. For instance, family planning programmes will always be more gender responsive than carbon capture programmes. This could provide family planning advocates with an opportunity to make new partnerships with non-health organisations involved with climate change adaptation programming, wanting to develop programmes with genuine and significant gender, community, health and empowerment actions. Not only are multi-sectoral partnerships desirable to address complex development challenges, they also create synergies that improve sector specific impacts for each partner, including health partners.

9. The greatest global health threat

Climate change will place ever increasing strains on national healthcare services and the ability of governments to meet their citizens’ needs. Climate change is currently affecting public health through a myriad of environmental consequences, such as sea-level rise, changes in precipitation resulting in flooding and drought, heat waves, changes in intensity of hurricanes and storms, and degraded air quality.²³ Climate change can be a driver for disease migration²⁴ and has been identified by the IPCC as an impediment to continued health improvements in many parts of the world.²⁵ Climate change is expected to lead to increases in ill-health in many regions and

20. Starbird, E. et al. 9 June 2016. “[Investing in Family Planning: Key to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)”. In *Global Health: Science and Practice*.

21. The Lancet. 2016. Deliver for Good: Investments in girls and women power progress for all. The investment case for girls and women.

22. Ibid.

23. United States Environment Protection Agency. “[Climate change impacts on ecosystems](#)”.

24. Ibid.

25. IPCC. 2014. [Working Group 2 Chapter 11: Human Health: Impacts, Adaptation, and Co-Benefits](#) in “[Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability](#)”.

especially in developing countries with low incomes. The progress made by the global health community against climate-sensitive diseases like malaria, dengue fever, and other vector-borne infections is likely to be altered and the resulting disease burden will have a greater impact on particular groups that are most vulnerable, such as the young, elderly and those of ill-health.²⁶ There is also an increased risk of undernutrition resulting from diminished food production, as climate change is projected to undermine food security and reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources in most dry subtropical regions.²⁷ It is unsurprising that research published in the *Lancet* in 2009 titled “Managing the health effects of climate change” opened its executive summary by stating “Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century”.²⁸

Given the above, there is an increasing need to prepare health systems. Whilst advocates should seek to include reference to family planning in national planning processes regarding climate change, it is also important to seek to include reference to climate change in any national plans relating primarily to health. This will act as a further opportunity for the health sector to deepen cross-sectoral relationships.

10. Family planning is a key to environmental sustainability

A 2012²⁹ study focused on the impacts of population and consumption growth on life on Earth, nine recommendations were made, with two directly relevant to this paper:

- “Population and the environment should not be considered as two separate issues. Demographic changes, and the influences on them, should be factored into economic and environmental debate and planning at international meetings, such as the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and subsequent meetings”; and
- “Reproductive health and voluntary family planning programmes urgently require political leadership and financial commitment, both nationally and internationally. This is needed to continue the downward trajectory of fertility rates, especially in countries where the unmet need for contraception is high.”³⁰

Sexual and reproductive health advocates can, by placing family planning programmes in this environmental context, persuade environmentalists to join them in their advocacy efforts to ensure family planning actions form part of national adaptation strategies.

By slowing population growth, we reduce unintended pregnancies which lessens the risk of environmental impacts and enhances the potential for societal resilience to climate change, water scarcity, food insecurity, the loss of biological diversity, and related threats. Indeed, the WHO has said, “Family planning is key to slowing [population growth] and the resulting negative impacts on the economy, environment, and national and regional development efforts.”³¹ Population and the environment should not be considered as two separate issues; they must be addressed in an

26. WHO. [Protecting health from climate change – connecting science, policy and people](#).

27. IPCC. 2014. [Working Group 2 Chapter 11: Human Health: Impacts, Adaptation, and Co-Benefits](#) in “[Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability](#)”.

28. Costello A. et al. 2009. Managing the health effects of climate change. *The Lancet*, 373(9676): 1693–723.

29. The Royal Society. April 2012. “People and the planet: Summary and recommendations”.

30. Ibid.

31. World Health Organization. Factsheet N°351. Updated May 2015. “[Media Centre Factsheets: Family Planning/Contraception](#)”.

integrated, rights-based manner together and the health sector should seek to partner with the environmental sector and include family planning in national environmental plans and policies.

Three key advocacy actions

National family planning advocates should:

- **Step 1:** Write to governmental ministers in all relevant ministries, adapting the precedent letters suggested in Annexures One - Four, highlighting the necessary next steps to ensure greater inclusion of family planning as an adaptation strategy in national plans;
- **Step 2:** Circulate the fact sheet, this policy paper, and the communications toolkit internally around their organisations to ensure greater internal knowledge on the family planning and climate change connections, as well as ensuring that communications teams promote the key messages; and
- **Step 3:** Develop avenues of communication with “climate change” and “environment” project implementers and funders, as well as government ministers, and share with them the arguments contained in this paper, with the aim of new partners supporting family planning as an adaptation strategy and a greater coalition promoting the importance of family planning as a climate change adaptation strategy.

Authors

This toolkit has been jointly prepared by:

International Planned Parenthood Federation

The International Planned Parenthood Federation is a global sexual and reproductive health and rights organisation. It is a globally connected civil society movement that provides and enables services and champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, especially the under-served.

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Population & Sustainability Network

The Population & Sustainability Network is a global network, based in London, working to highlight the links between population, sexual and reproductive health and rights, conservation, climate change, sustainability and other development priorities.

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The authors are members of the Population and Sustainable Development Alliance

The Population and Sustainable Development Alliance is an international network of civil society organisations advocating together on population, sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustainable development issues.

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Annexure One

Precedent letter for advocates in Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda and Zambia

To be adapted by national advocates in the above countries and sent to Ministers in all relevant ministries (health, climate change, gender, environment, planning and finance)

[Organisation's letterhead]

The Honourable [Name and surname of Minister]

[Date]

Minister of [Name of ministry]

Ministry of [Name of Ministry]

Dear Minister [Minister's surname]

Furthering [Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda and Zambia]'s climate adaptation planning

[IPPF MA name] and the Government of [Insert] have worked together successfully and closely to improve the health and wellbeing of our nation's citizens for many years. Improving the health of our citizens has many benefits, including preparing to face climate change impacts, and supporting economic growth, another means of preparing for the increasing effects of climate change.

We are proud that our nation is one of only a handful which has recognised family planning as an adaptation strategy in our national adaptation programme of action. We believe that with the strong leadership shown by our Government to date, we can continue to lead the world in this field.

When world leaders gather at COP22 in Marrakech, at the next Climate Change Conference (7-18 November 2016), they will discuss how to implement the Paris Agreement, and appropriate climate adaptation measures. I respectfully request that our national delegation attending COP22 be requested to:

1. Share our nation's understanding of the connections between climate change and family planning, and our knowledge of family planning as a climate change adaptation strategy;
2. Promote the importance of family planning as a cost effective, rights-based, gender responsive adaptation strategy which also responds to multiple Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Encourage all nations to ensure family planning is included as a climate adaptation strategy in National Adaptation Plans and all other national planning processes (be they development, poverty reduction, environmental or other planning processes); and
4. Take every opportunity to promote to funders, such as the Global Environment Facility, and others, of our key messages (please see attached) that family planning projects should be seen as priority adaptation interventions.

We look forward to our continued collaboration to improve the health and well-being of our nation. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Family Planning as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Key Messages for COP22

1. Climate change is simultaneously the greatest threat to human health, and the greatest threat to environmental sustainability;
2. Family planning is a human-rights based adaptation strategy;
3. Family planning projects are eligible for climate change adaptation funding;
4. Family planning is a particularly cost-effective climate adaptation strategy;
5. Family planning must be included as a climate adaptation strategy in national plans;
6. The need to integrate development actions, and importance of gender within development programmes, provides partnership opportunities and enhances the importance of family planning as an adaptation strategy;
7. Population growth, resulting from the unmet need for family planning, hampers nations' efforts to combat climate change and can lessen nations' ability to adapt to climate change; and
8. Climate change will increase strain on healthcare services. Rights-based family planning must be an integral part of any comprehensive health care system.

Annexure Two

Precedent letter for advocates from Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen

To be adapted by national advocates in the above countries and sent to Ministers in all relevant ministries (health, climate change, gender, environment, planning and finance)

[Organisation's letterhead]

The Honourable [Name and surname of Minister]
Minister of [Name of ministry]
Ministry of [Name of Ministry]

[Date]

Dear Minister [Minister's surname]

Adapting to climate change: family planning programmes

[IPPF MA name] and the Government of [Insert] have worked together successfully and closely to improve the health and wellbeing of our nation's citizens for many years. Improving the health of our citizens has many benefits, including preparing to face climate change impacts, and supporting economic growth, another means of preparing for the increasing effects of climate change.

We are proud that our nation is one of those which was far sighted enough to identify the link between "population growth" and climate change, before many others, when developing our National Adaptation Programme of Action. With the benefit of the strong leadership shown by our Government to date on this issue, we believe we can continue to ensure our nation becomes increasingly better placed to adapt to climate change.

With world leaders gathering at COP22 in Marrakech, at the next Climate Change Conference (7-18 November 2016), to discuss implementing the Paris Agreement and appropriate climate adaptation measures, I respectfully request that our national delegation attending COP22 be requested to:

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7. Population growth, resulting from the unmet need for family planning, hampers nations' efforts to combat climate change and can lessen nations' ability to adapt to climate change; and
8. Climate change will increase strain on healthcare services. Rights-based family planning must be an integral part of any comprehensive health care system.

Annexure Three

Precedent letter for advocates in all Angola, Afghanistan, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Lao PDR, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo and Tuvalu

To be adapted by national advocates in the above countries and sent to Ministers in all relevant ministries (health, climate change, gender, environment, planning and finance)

[Organisation's letterhead]

The Honourable [Name and surname of Minister]

[Date]

Minister of [Name of ministry]

Ministry of [Name of Ministry]

Dear Minister [Minister's surname]

Adapting to climate change: family planning programmes

[IPPF MA name] and the Government of [Insert] have worked together successfully and closely to improve the health and wellbeing of our nation's citizens for many years. Improving the health of our citizens has many benefits, including preparing to face climate change impacts, and supporting economic growth, another means of preparing for the increasing effects of climate change.

Many countries have identified the link between "population growth" and climate change. Others have expressly included family planning as an adaptation activity in their national adaptation programmes of action. We are committed to working with the Government to seek to ensure that our nation and people are best prepared to adapt to climate change and we believe that not only does that require a focus on family planning, but also that the forthcoming Climate Change Conference could be an opportunity.

With world leaders gathering at COP22 in Marrakech, at the next Climate Change Conference (7-18 November 2016), to discuss implementing the Paris Agreement and appropriate climate adaptation measures, we believe there will be a greater focus on family planning as an adaptation strategy, compared to previous years at COP.

I respectfully request that our national delegation attending COP22 be requested to contact the delegations of nations such as Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda and Zambia, which have previously committed to implementing family planning actions as part of climate adaptation programmes, to establish the impacts of those programmes and whether such programmes might be appropriate for our nation. We believe they are.

We believe that in the coming years family planning actions will become an ever increasing element of integrated climate adaptation programmes. For our nation to fully benefit from potential funding streams, this will require family planning being stated as a climate adaptation strategy in our National Adaptation Plan and other national planning processes. Should you require more information on this, please do not hesitate to contact me, or consider the key messages attached.

We look forward to our continued collaboration to improve the health and well-being of our nation.

Yours sincerely

Family Planning as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Key Messages for COP22

1. Climate change is simultaneously the greatest threat to human health, and the greatest threat to environmental sustainability;
2. Family planning is a human-rights based adaptation strategy;
3. Family planning projects are eligible for climate change adaptation funding;
4. Family planning is a particularly cost-effective climate adaptation strategy;
5. Family planning must be included as a climate adaptation strategy in national plans;
6. The need to integrate development actions, and importance of gender within development programmes, provides partnership opportunities and enhances the importance of family planning as an adaptation strategy;
7. Population growth, resulting from the unmet need for family planning, hampers nations' efforts to combat climate change and can lessen nations' ability to adapt to climate change; and
8. Climate change will increase strain on healthcare services. Rights-based family planning must be an integral part of any comprehensive health care system.

Annexure Four

Precedent letter for advocates from countries other than Least Developed Countries

To be adapted by national advocates in the above countries and sent to Ministers in all relevant ministries (health, climate change, gender, environment, planning and finance)

[Organisation's letterhead]

The Honourable [Name and surname of Minister]
Minister of [Name of ministry]
Ministry of [Name of Ministry]

[Date]

Dear Minister [Minister's surname]

Family planning: Helping low income countries adapt to climate change

Preparations for the next Climate Change Conference are now advanced, and I am certain [country]'s delegation are well prepared for COP22's focus on implementing the Paris Agreement.

As you are aware, many of the Least Developed Countries have formulated National Adaptation Programmes of Action, National Adaptation Plans, and/or other national planning processes which set out priority adaptation strategies and projects. Many of these plans include family planning actions and/or make connections between population growth and climate change. With the attention in Marrakech turning to implementation of the Paris Agreement, it is critical that low income countries are supported in their efforts to adapt, and that must include supporting family planning programmes.

I respectfully request that our national delegation attending COP22 be requested to:

1. Promote the importance of family planning as a cost effective, rights-based, gender responsive adaptation strategy which also responds to multiple Sustainable Development Goals;
2. Encourage all nations to ensure family planning is included as a climate adaptation strategy in National Adaptation Plans and all other national planning processes (be they development, poverty reduction, environmental or other planning processes); and
3. Take every opportunity to promote to funders, such as the Global Environment Facility, and others, of our key messages (please see attached) that family planning projects should be seen as priority adaptation interventions.

We look forward to our continued collaboration to improve the health and well-being of our nation. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Family Planning as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Key Messages for COP22

1. Climate change is simultaneously the greatest threat to human health, and the greatest threat to environmental sustainability;
2. Family planning is a human-rights based adaptation strategy;
3. Family planning projects are eligible for climate change adaptation funding;
4. Family planning is a particularly cost-effective climate adaptation strategy;
5. Family planning must be included as a climate adaptation strategy in national plans;
6. The need to integrate development actions, and importance of gender within development programmes, provides partnership opportunities and enhances the importance of family planning as an adaptation strategy;
7. Population growth, in part resulting from the unmet need for family planning, makes climate adaptation and resilience building more challenging; and
8. Climate change will increase strain on healthcare services. Rights-based family planning must be an integral part of any comprehensive health care system.

