

BACKGROUND PAPER

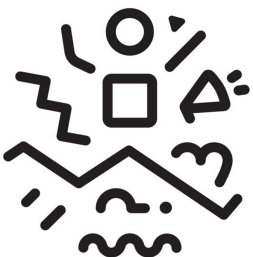
ICPD25 AND PAKISTANI YOUTH

FROM CAIRO TO NAIROBI



ICPD25

International Conference on
Population and Development



YOUNG اُمَنگ
STRIVING FOR YOUTH RIGHTS

YOUNG OMANG AIMS TO BE AN EFFECTIVE VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S BODILY AUTONOMY AND RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN. IT COMPRISES OF TEN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS THAT BRING WITH THEM A COMBINATION OF REGIONAL DIVERSITY AND UNIQUE STRENGTHS.

BACKGROUND ICPD



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ICPD 25

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was first held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994. At the conference, 179 governments adopted the landmark Programme of Action. It was concluded that population and health require integration: diverse views on human rights, population, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and sustainable development merged into a remarkable global consensus that placed individual dignity and human rights, including the right to plan one's family, at the very heart of development.

ICPD25- WHEN, WHERE, WHY & WHAT

From 12-14 November, the governments of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA are co-convening the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. This high-level conference will mobilize the political will and financial commitments and urgently implement the ICPD Programme of Action in entirety. These commitments will be centred around achieving zero unmet need for family planning information and services, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls. The 25th anniversary of the ICPD presents an important opportunity to revisit the work of ICPD over the last 25 years.

It is a time for retrospection and laying down future goals. Objectives that have been achieved as well as tasks that remain incomplete will all be highlighted. This conference aims to inspire action, and to mobilize the political will and financial commitments to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action. Although important progress has been made in implementing the Programme of Action, the governments acknowledge that gains have been uneven, and some major gaps remain. Full implementation of ICPD Programme of Action is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is one of the cornerstones of population and development programmes the world over, and is a key target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It rests on the premise that all couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

The Summit on ICPD25 is about renewing and reinvigorating the global commitment to the “full and accelerated” implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, within the overall context of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, to ensure that no one is left behind.





SUMMIT'S 17 COMMITMENTS

- 1. We commit to intensify our efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation and funding of the ICPD Programme of Action and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- 2. We commit to strive for zero preventable maternal deaths.
- 3. We commit to integrate a comprehensive package of Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) interventions into national Universal Health Coverage (UHC) strategies, policies and programmes.
- 4. We commit to ensure zero unmet need for family planning information and services and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives, including during humanitarian crises.
- 5. We commit to the notion of bodily integrity and autonomy, allowing all individuals to make decisions governing their bodies for themselves and to access the essential services in support of that notion.
- 6. We commit that young people have access to age-appropriate information and services required to adequately protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.
- 7. We recommit to end child marriages.
- 8. We recommit to end female genital mutilation.
- 9. We recommit to end sexual and gender-based violence.
- 10. We recommit to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.
- 11. We commit to set up or explore new financing instruments and structures to mobilize the required resources for the financing of the full ICPD agenda, and in particular of the “three zeros”.



SUMMIT'S 17 COMMITMENTS

- 12. We commit using national budget processes, as well as all available (innovative) financing instruments and schemes, to do what is in our power to increase domestic financing for sexual and reproductive health programmes to fill the financing gap.
- 13. We commit to do what is in our power to increase the percentage of Official Development Aid (ODA) specifically earmarked for sexual and reproductive health and rights to complement domestic financing of sexual and reproductive health programmes.
- 14. We commit to harness the demographic dividend by investing in family planning information and services, and investing in the health, education and employment opportunities of young people.
- 15. We commit to the notion that nothing about young people's health and well-being can be discussed and decided upon without their direct and full involvement and equal participation ("nothing about us, without us").
- 16. We commit to build inclusive societies, where the old and the young, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, feel valued and able to contribute to their societies.
- 17. We commit to make the provision of data and the improvement of our data systems a priority for achieving sustainable development.

ICPD THEMES & ACCELERATORS:

THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF ICPD IS DIVIDED UNDER FIVE SPECIFIC THEMES:

1. UNIVERSAL SRHR IN THE CONTEXT OF UHC.
2. CREATING FINANCING MOMENTUM.
3. DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND HARMFUL PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.
5. SRHR IN HUMANITARIAN AND FRAGILE CONTEXTS.

WPAY & ICPD

The United Nations youth agenda is guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). When talking about a country such as Pakistan, where the youth bulge is one of the largest currently in the world, we must keep in mind that ICPD agenda has to undeniably link Pakistan largely to the youth. WPAY provides a policy framework and guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world. The WPAY covers fifteen youth priority areas and contains proposals for action in each of these areas:

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Hunger & Poverty
4. Health
5. Environment
6. Substance Abuse
7. Juvenile justice
8. Leisure time activities
9. Girls & young women
10. Participation of youth in decision making
11. Globalization
12. Information & Communication technologies
13. HIV/AIDS
14. Armed conflict
15. Intergenerational issues

Implementation of WPAY requires the full enjoyment by young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also requires that Governments take effective action against violations of these rights and freedoms and promote non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for

FIVE ACCELERATORS:

THE 5 X 5 THEME AND ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME DESIGN ALONG WITH THE SUMMIT'S 17 COMMITMENTS WILL STRIVE TO WORK WITH THE FOLLOWING INTEGRATED ACCELERATORS:

1. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY.
2. YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT.
3. POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP.
4. INNOVATION AND DATA.
5. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION.

diversity, with full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of their young people, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all young women and men.

YOUTH & PAKISTAN

With 64 percent of population being in the category of youth, Pakistan has one of the largest pools of youth in the world. Pakistan has the greatest population of young people ever recorded in its history, according to a comprehensive National Human Development Report (NHDR) report launched by UNDP in 2017. Pakistan currently has the largest generation of young people ever in its history, with about two-thirds of the total population under 30 years of age. This includes children under 15 who will be tomorrow's youth. While, youth cohort defined as those between 15-29 years of age, currently forms nearly a third of the country's total population[1] Youth can be a powerful resource for our country if channelized and taken care of with the right methods.

[1] "Pakistan National Human Development Report". <http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/human-development-reports/PKNHDR.html>

PAKISTAN & ICPD

There is a lot of buzz currently about such a large percentage of our population belonging to the age group of youth. This phenomenon is also called the youth bulge. A greater challenge for Pakistani public and policy circles is to synchronize the reality of youth bulge with the ICPD's goals. This would require cooperation and coordination among population, health and youth affairs departments and youth work stakeholders. Government bodies that have the interests of youth at their heart must ensure implementation of youth policies at a provincial level. There must be an integration of work at the levels of both the government and civil societies to fully get a handle on population development work. The ICPD's agenda has to encompass all three areas of youth development which include economic and social empowerment and political engagement.

SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUMMIT FOR PAKISTAN'S UNFINISHED ICPD BUSINESS:

- 64 percent (nearly two thirds) of the country's total population is currently below the age of 30 and this trend is not going to fall till 2035[2]
- Pakistan is the second worst country in the world in terms of gender parity, ranking 148 out of 149 countries in the 'Global Gender Gap Index 2018' report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The overall contraceptives prevalence rate among women of reproductive age is 30% which is even lower among married women ages 15-24 (17.6%)[3].
- Due to prevailing socio-cultural norms, young girls, after entering puberty, face greater challenges in accessing education opportunities and health care than young boys.
- The society is not inclusive of sexual diversities, often resulting in emotional, verbal, and physical abuse of individuals based on their differences or nonconformity.
- The median age of marriage for girls in Pakistan is 19.5, indicating that half the numbers of girls are married off before the age of 20[4]

[2] "Pakistan National Human Development Report". <http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/human-development-reports/PKNHDR.html>

[3] Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Pakistan (2018), Policy Brief on Youth Friendly Health Services, p. 2. Population Council and UNFPA (2009), The Adolescent Experience In-Depth: Using Data to Identify and Reach the Most Vulnerable Young People: Pakistan 2006/07, New York: Population Council, www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/PGY_AdolDataGuides/Pakistan2006-07.pdf.

[4] National Institute of Population Studies [Pakistan] and ICF International (2013), Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-13, Calverton: National Institute of Population Studies and ICF International, www.nips.org.pk/abstract_les/PDHS%20Key%20Findings%20FINAL%201.24.14.pdf



BARGAD PROVIDING THE DRIVING FORCE FOR YOUTH POLICY

Provincial youth policies, mandated under 18th Amendment of the Pakistani constitution, can be the most promising instruments of linking youth to meet the ICPD goals. Bargad and UNFPA have played facilitative role in youth policy work in Pakistan. Three provincial youth policies (Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh) are already in implementation phases. These policies strive to holistically meet needs of the youth based on three foundation pillars of economic, social and political empowerment of youth. There have been positive results observed due to the provincial youth policies, such as budgetary increase for youth affairs and sports, entrepreneurship opportunities, women employment quotas, youth exchanges, and training opportunities. Bargad and other civil society organizations are engaging the youth in training and mobilization and are linking them with sustainable development goals under frameworks of the youth policies. From the perspective of youth development, education requires an organized, umbrella approach which is not limited to textbooks. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is the target. It includes physical, emotional, mental, and social well being in relation to all aspects of sexuality and reproduction, not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction, or infirmity. Psychological and physical health, grooming of social habits, educating about critical thinking and how to develop youth voices to reason, are just a few basic components and areas of this work.



YAN'S COMMITMENT TO ICPD

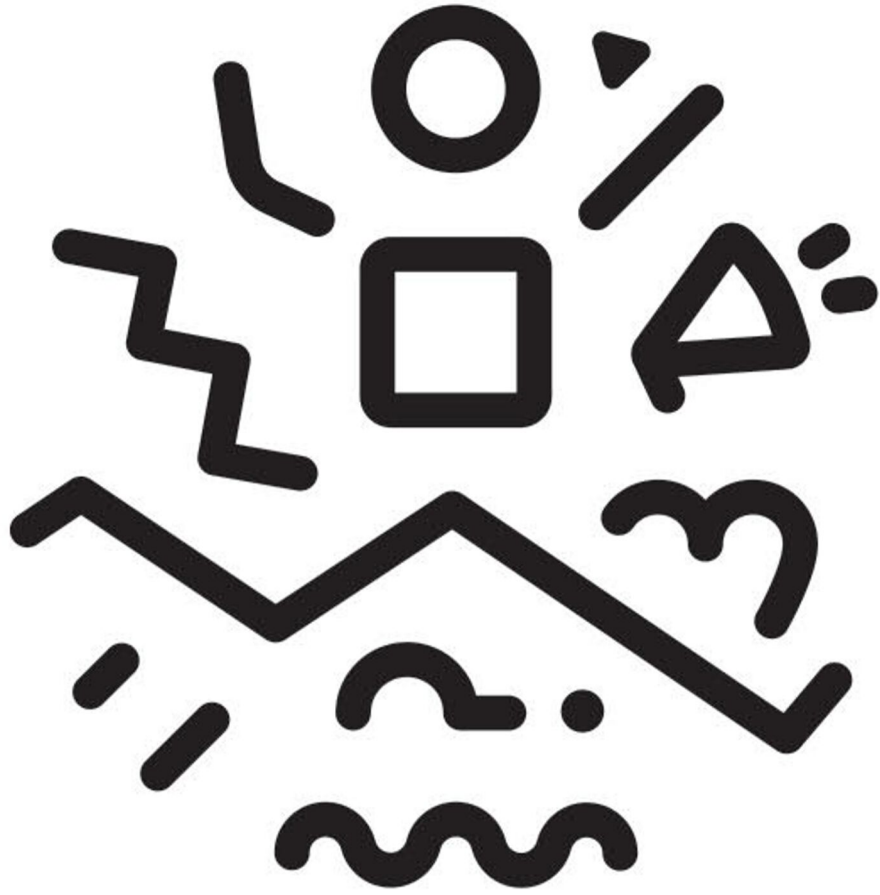
- Integration of SRH related subjects in National Youth Policy 2009.
- Ensured meaningful Youth Participation as part of official delegation of Pakistan to UN Commission on Population Development (CPD) from 2014-17.
- Provided youth perspectives in country statements and consultation on "ICPD beyond 2014 agenda".
- Development of country brief and facts sheets on ICPD related subjects
- Co-chair Youth Caucus of Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) Development of National Youth Alliance on FP-SRH for youth-led organizations and youth leaders in light with Supreme Court of Pakistan decision on Population Growth.
- Contributed in the development of National Action Plan by the Country Engagement Working Group 2019.
- Elected as co-chair Youth Caucus of Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG OMANG PAKISTAN

Young Omang Network fully endorses its recommendations for the ICPD 25, as following:[5]

- The government should take immediate measures to ensure that comprehensive programmes with adequate budget allocation for the provision of Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) for all young people are in place, and are being effectively implemented and monitored as part of public sector education.
- National and provincial governments should work together to ensure uniform and consistent guidelines for LSBE curricula development across the provinces, where such curricula includes rights-based information and gender-sensitive content to challenge gender stereotypes, and incorporates inputs from SRHR experts and young people themselves.
- National and provincial governments should undertake awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of LSBE, to increase public support for its mainstreaming in school curricula.
- Adolescent SRH Services.
- National and provincial governments should ensure that all provinces have Youth Policies in place, which include progressive commitments regarding youth and gender friendly SRHR information and services, and are accompanied by costed implementation plans to ensure adequate resources and budgets for their full implementation.
- National and provincial governments should take immediate measures for the sensitization of duty-bearers, teachers, and healthcare providers on youth-friendly health services, to ensure young people's access to stigma- and discrimination-free and gender-sensitive health services.
- Sexuality among young people is little researched in Pakistan, primarily owing to cultural taboos restricting open discussions on sexuality and sexual health in general. Further research and data collection is needed, in order to fully understand the barriers young people face when it comes to realizing their SRHR.
- It is essential to ensure timely and proper implementation of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's formulated task force on alarming high population growth rate. Recommendations that are duly approved by the Counsel of Common Interest CCI including the recommendation that LSBE and population studies must be included in secondary and higher secondary schools.
- There must be special programmatic interventions to address SRHR needs for transgender people and people with disability.

[5] The Young Omang Network Pakistan executes actions of capacity building, events & lobbying, and evidence generation with an overall aim to be an effective voice for young people's SRHR in Pakistan. It comprises of ten member organizations which bring with them a combination of youth voices and experience, regional diversity, specific skills and unique strengths for youth development across the country. These recommendations have been taken from Cousins, Lara. ICPD+25 Shadow Report: Amplifying and accelerating action on young people's SRHR, Right Here Right Now (RHRN).



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