

DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

FOR EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



PATHWAYS FOR SOCIETIES TO
THRIVE IN A WORLD OF RAPID
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE



Demographic Resilience and Sustainable Development

The UN Secretary-General has identified demographic change as one of five mega-trends that are shaping our common future. All countries experience demographic change in one way or another: as continued population growth in some parts of the world, and population ageing and population decline in others, as well as accelerating migration and urbanization.

These demographic shifts fundamentally determine the progress we make towards most of the development goals on our common agenda, specifically Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals that are at its heart. They shape collective efforts to reduce poverty and inequality; respond to crises, as exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic; ensure decent work and social protection; provide universal health coverage and primary and secondary education; empower women and young people; promote and protect the rights of older persons; create dynamic economies and protect

the environment; and ensure adequate financing for development, among others.

Demographic resilience, as a concept, emphasizes the importance of population dynamics for socioeconomic development and individual well-being, as well as for political stability and security. At the 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, member States committed themselves to draw on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development.

Demographically resilient societies understand and anticipate the population dynamics they are experiencing. They have the skills, tools, political will and public support to manage them so that they can mitigate potentially negative effects for individuals, societies, economies and the environment, and harness the opportunities that come with demographic change for people, prosperity and the planet.

FACTS & FIGURES AT A GLANCE



REPLACEMENT LEVEL
1.3–2.1

Fertility rates are
BELOW replacement
level across Europe



1 IN 4 PEOPLE
in Europe is 60
years or older

Demographic Resilience in Europe and Central Asia

Governments across the Europe and Central Asia region recognize addressing demographic change as a top priority. Many governments in Eastern Europe are concerned about how low fertility, migration, population ageing and, in some cases, decreasing populations will affect economies and the sustainability of social security systems, as well as vital infrastructures and services in areas with low or decreasing population density. In Central Asia demographic resilience relates to relatively large youth populations, and harnessing the demographic dividend.

Demographic resilience is an aspiration that involves the ability to predict demographic shifts, understand their implications and develop policy responses that are based on evidence and human rights. It means moving beyond narrow quick-fix approaches focused on population numbers towards comprehensive population and social policies aimed at ensuring prosperity and well-being for all.



In 17 countries,
populations have
DECLINED since 1990




5 countries have lost
20-30%
of their population
since 1990

Dominant driver of
population decline:
OUTMIGRATION



UNFPA's Demographic Resilience Programme for Europe and Central Asia

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has over 50 years of experience around the world in advising governments on how to address demographic change. Many countries, in Europe and elsewhere, have already turned to UNFPA for support in analysing and addressing population dynamics. In delivering support to countries, UNFPA draws on an extensive network of leading demographic institutes and experts, partners within the UN system, and international financial institutions.

UNFPA's Demographic Resilience Programme aims to support and build the capacity of countries in the region in developing population and social policies and programmes to respond to demographic change, strengthen human capital and shape a prosperous future.

The Programme, carried out in collaboration with partner institutions and UN agencies, offers a suite of support services that can be tailored to country needs and specifications. It focuses on three priorities:

OVERVIEW OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM

Demographic Intelligence	Convening Stakeholders & Knowledge Exchange	Population Policy Design
Data		Population Policy Lab
Census	Annual Conference	Integrated Populations Policy Reviews
Surveys, DHS, MICS, GGS	Annual Summer School	Monitoring frameworks
Other data products	Peer Exchange Mechanisms	Costing of policies/programmes
Rapid demographic assessments in emergencies and crises	International Advisory Panel on Population and Development (IAPPD)	
Tools		
Population projections		
Population Situation Analyses (PSAs)		
National Transfer Accounts (NTAs)		
Demographic Divident Profiles (DDPs)		
Studies		
Demographic change and challenges briefs		
Special studies		

Demographic Intelligence

The Programme provides support to countries in building a solid evidence base and analysing complex demographic processes and their impact on relevant policy areas. This is carried out utilizing an array of data, tools and studies.

DATA

Censuses: UNFPA provides technical and financial support to ensure that censuses, including those using remote technologies, are of high quality, uphold international principles and standards, and produce data that are widely disseminated and utilized for development.

Surveys: The collection of demographic data through censuses is complemented with a range of surveys to which UNFPA contributes. These include the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS), as well as specifically designed qualitative and quantitative surveys. They provide valuable socio-demographic information and help monitor progress towards achieving the ICPD and the SDGs.

Other data products: Other data sources, including various types of administrative records, can help to monitor and better understand implications of demographic shifts. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) is one important component of this. In some countries, UNFPA works with big data, notably in relation to estimation of population mobility.

Rapid demographic assessments in emergencies and crises: UNFPA supports the production of rapid demographic assessments in response to specific health, social, economic or environmental emergencies or crises.

TOOLS

Population Situation Analyses (PSAs): These provide a unique basis for an integrated appraisal of population dynamics and their relationship with sustainable development. By integrating a micro and macro analytical approach, PSAs clarify the interactions between individual behaviour and demographic dynamics while contributing to evidence-based policy and programme formulation.

Population projections: UNFPA helps strengthen national capacities to produce population projections, including through training courses and special technical assistance missions.

National Transfer Accounts (NTAs): Rigorous and authoritative insights into the ways changes in the age structure of a population affect economies are provided by NTAs, which also offer insights into pressures on pensions, health care and public finances.

Demographic dividend profiles: These profiles map the ability of countries to cope with demographic shifts and realize a first or second demographic dividend that can come with changes in age structures.

STUDIES

Demographic change and challenges briefs: Demographic country profiles that are based on the latest demographic and socioeconomic data; highlight demographic trends; and identify potential demographic tailwinds and headwinds for achieving development goals.

In-depth analyses: Ranging from census monographs to in-depth survey data analyses, UNFPA has produced numerous in-depth analyses focused on topics such as gender, older persons and youth.

Convening Stakeholders and Knowledge Exchange

The Demographic Resilience Programme draws together the expertise and resources of a wide range of actors from academia, governments, the private sector, the United Nations system, civil society and local communities. UNFPA uses its convening power to create synergies to capitalize on the comparative advantages of various stakeholders and facilitate peer exchange and sharing of research, experiences and good practices.

Annual Conference: A forum for knowledge exchange among policymakers and academics on all dimensions of Demographic Resilience, including population trends at national and sub-national levels and their social, economic, environmental, political and cultural implications.

Annual Summer School: An opportunity for policymakers to get an in-depth understanding of the drivers and implications of demographic shifts, as well as the suite of policies and programmes that can be employed in response.

Virtual learning programme: A series of training modules aimed at policymakers and practitioners from

national and local levels, directed by leading academic institutions.

Training programmes: In collaboration with its implementing partners, UNFPA supports capacity development on the interlinkages between population and development, and on the production of national and subnational population projections.

International Advisory Panel on Population and Development (IAPPD): A network of leading experts that regularly convenes to discuss population trends and policy issues. Individual members can provide support to countries in areas related to their expertise.

DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE AND THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

UNFPA's Demographic Resilience Programme is embedded in its broader work in support of implementing the Programme of Action adopted by 179 countries at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and reconfirmed at the 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. The ICPD Programme of Action provides a powerful framework for addressing demographic change. With its emphasis on individual rights and well-being over abstract numerical population targets, it lays the foundation for a modern, holistic approach to population and development and for creating environments

that are conducive for enabling individuals and societies to thrive in a context of demographic change. From ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health to promoting gender equality and social inclusion of marginalized groups, from developing gender-responsive family policies to enabling young people to succeed in life — UNFPA programmes in these and related areas all serve to assist countries in the region in unleashing the potential of all people, building human capital and shaping a prosperous and demographically resilient future. The ICPD25 review process in Europe and Central Asia concluded that addressing the complex interrelationships between population dynamics requires “holistic, human rights-based policies that eradicate inequalities and embrace the contributions of all individuals and generations to sustainable development.”



Population Policy Design

UNFPA assists with the design, implementation and impact assessment of comprehensive population and social policies to address demographic change and ensure sustainable development.

Population Policy Lab: An innovative space bringing together world-class experts and national and local authorities to co-design evidence-based policy responses.

Population policy reviews: Evaluations and reviews of policies on a range of issues, including active and healthy ageing; family-friendly and youth policies; migration; sexual and reproductive health; and urban and rural development.

Costing: Includes provision of training and model templates for costing exercises to ensure adequate financing for population policies and programmes.

Monitoring frameworks: Monitoring systems with clearly defined timelines and accountabilities allowing for the tracking of progress on implementation and expenditures.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Programme works through multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with leading academic institutes and networks, UN agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society.



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