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POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION

WHAT ARE POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES?

Population, Environment, and Development (PED) approaches are integrated development solutions that recognize the connections between people, their health, and other development aspects. Strategic, integrated PED programming can effectively support the achievement of FP/RH outcomes—enabling countries to meet the family planning needs of their people, while contributing to other development objectives. (See Box)

HISTORY OF USAID SUPPORT

USAID support for PED approaches dates back to the early 1990s. In 2002, USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health initiated its Population-Health-Environment (PHE) program in response to legislative language in Congress' fiscal year 2002 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, and subsequent bills, stating that a portion of funds allocated for family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) should be used "where population growth threatens biodiversity or endangered species."

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

USAID aims to advance the integration of PED approaches, promote the uptake of voluntary family planning, and ensure that PED interventions are reflected in global and national policy plans and programs through three strategic objectives:

- Global leadership demonstrated in PED policy, advocacy, and communication.
- Support provided to the field to implement effective and sustainable PED programs.
- Knowledge generated, organized, and disseminated in response to PED program needs.

BOX: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ▶ [The Impact of Population, Health, and Environment Projects: A Synthesis of the Evidence](#)
- ▶ [Investing in Family Planning: Key to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- ▶ peopleplanetconnect.org

CROSS-SECTORAL BENEFITS OF PED APPROACHES

POPULATION DYNAMICS AND VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING

PED integration increases the availability of and access to voluntary family planning, including in "last mile" communities that are beyond the reach of traditional reproductive health care. Integration can also better engage men in FP/RH, and increase their support of and access to these valuable services.



ENVIRONMENT

Compared to single-sector projects, PED projects show improved environmental indicators, such as: increased engagement of women in conservation and natural resource management activities; decreased population-driven pressures on the environment; and reduced unsustainable practices around natural resources.



ECONOMIC GROWTH/LIVELIHOODS

Integrating health, livelihood, and micro-credit components with natural resource management activities increases buy-in from men and women. Better health, more education, and access to family planning all contribute to economic stability, giving women and households more assets to draw on in the face of a crisis.



RESILIENCE

Integrating family planning, nutrition, and income generation can increase the resilience of communities in surviving and recovering from human and environmental shocks by diversifying sources of nutrition and income, and engaging women in agriculture and natural resource management.



WOMEN AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

Integrating PED with education can increase women and girls' empowerment and agency and foster increased youth leadership and development. Education has also shown to lead to better health outcomes for women and their families, and increase the ability to decide whether, when, and how many children to have.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

PED activities that incorporate food security and nutrition allow for better health outcomes, especially in infants and children. Additionally, incorporating nutrition education into agricultural and environmental health programs allows for advancements in nutrition-sensitive agriculture.



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Gaith, Smita. (2018, September 11). *Population, Health, and Environment Approaches Enhance Youth Leadership and Development*. PRB/PACE project.

Borwankar, Reena and Amieva, Shelly. (2015). *Desk Review of Programs Integrating Family Planning with Food Security and Nutrition*. FHI 360/FANTA

FANTA. (2017, August). *Multisectoral Nutrition Programming: FANTA Achievements and Lessons Learned*. FHI 360/FANTA.

Learn more:

[usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning](https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning)

