

**13th International Dialogue
on Population and
Sustainable Development**



Achieving the SDG on Health: The Potential of Health System Strengthening

Public Panel Discussion
October 28, 2015

KfW Berlin
Charlottenstraße 33a
10117 Berlin, Germany



Background

In September 2015, Member States of the United Nations have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals will serve as the main framework for development cooperation until 2030. They will guide efforts for the realisation of the human right to health.

The MDGs prioritised health with three out of eight goals and a clear focus on maternal and reproductive health (MDG 5), child health (MDG 4) as well as combatting infectious diseases (MDG 6). While important progress has been made on all of the MDGs in the past 15 years, these three goals remain alarmingly off track, while other important aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) were not even addressed by the MDGs. Health, including SRHR, will remain an important issue within the SDG-framework not least because health is a main driver of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Women, adolescent girls and children are the most vulnerable groups to failures and shortcomings in a health system. Maternal, neonatal and child health indicators can serve as proxy indicators for a country's health system performance and the realisation of the human right to health. Only in a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled, global health and sustainable development can truly be achieved.

Well-functioning health systems are key to secure sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as maternal and child health. However, there is an ongoing discussion on the priority elements of health systems strengthening – especially on which measures are essential to deliver better results – and on how to best implement them.

Programme

6:00 pm

Welcome

Marc Engelhardt

Director for Development and Sector Policy, KfW Entwicklungsbank, Germany

Keynote

Tewodros Melesse

Director-General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), UK

6:30 pm

Panel Discussion

Moderated by **Melinda Crane**, Journalist

John Byarugaba

Executive Director, Support for Integrated Health Care Initiative, Uganda

Zane Dangor

Special Advisor to the Minister, Department of Social Development, South Africa

Beth Schlachter

Director, Family Planning 2020, USA

Reinhard Tittel-Gronefeld

Head of Division Health and Population Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

7:50 pm

Closing Remarks

Renate Baehr

Executive Director, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Germany

8:00 p.m.

Reception

The International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development underlines the interdisciplinary importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and population dynamics as key factors in achieving international development goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference series is designed to facilitate the networking of national and international players and encourage the exchange of information and experience.

The International Dialogue is an annual, two-day conference taking place in Berlin, jointly organised by DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and KfW Development Bank, in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals.



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