FINDING BALANCE, EMPOWERING WOMEN

Suzanne Ehlers
President and CEO
Population Action International

Empower and Thrive: Creating New Pathways for Development and Conservation
Hosted by the CARE-WWF Alliance
September 11 2012, FHI 360 Conference Center, Washington DC
Presentation Outline

- Why population matters for food security
- Why climate change matters
- How population, climate change and development are linked
- What needs to be done – to find balance, empower women
Population Projections – Opportunity Not Destiny

PROJECTED WORLD POPULATION GROWTH, 2010 – 2050

- UN high-fertility variant (2010 revision)
- UN medium-fertility variant (2010 revision)
- UN low-fertility variant (2010 revision)
Population and Climate Change Hotspots

- High Population Growth Rates and High Declines in Agricultural Production
- High Population Growth Rates and Low Resilience to Climate Change
- Countries Experiencing All Three Variables
  - High Percentage of Women with Unmet Need for Family Planning
- Plus Current Water Stress or Scarcity
- Plus Current Water Stress or Scarcity
- Plus Current Water Stress or Scarcity
- No Data for One or More Variables
“A woman’s life is hard – climate change is making it harder.”
– Aregash Ayele, Ethiopia
“Without water, we cannot live.”
– Edita Zambran Romero, Peru

- Perus’ current population of 29 million projected to grow to 38 million in 2050
- Lima’s population of Lima has grown 23 percent in the last decade, adding more than 1.6 million people.
- Loss of Peruvian glaciers impacting water supplies
- Millions of already vulnerable populations, including women, are at placed at further risk of inadequate water.
“The food from the farms was not enough for us to eat.”
– Radhika Poudel, Nepal
Seeking Integrated Solutions: Case of PHE Programs

Common Goals of PHE Projects

- Food security
- Poverty alleviation (or income security)
- Balanced, equitable, sustainable development
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Human-ecosystem health
- Resilience to climate change

PHE approach has multiple benefits
Using Data to Tell Stories and Support Policy Advocacy and Programming

Healthy People, Healthy Ecosystems
A Manual on Integrating Health and Family Planning into Conservation Projects

Community-Based Adaptation Toolkit
Digital Toolkit – Version 1.0 – July 2010

WEATHERING CHANGE
Stories about climate and family from women around the world

Population Action International
Healthy Families Healthy Planet
Optimizing Country Level Opportunities: Malawi
Learning from Missed Opportunities: The Case of NAPAs

36 NAPAs submitted by African countries link population growth to food insecurity.
Maximizing Partnerships

- Evidence Based Research
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Advocacy
- Programming
Identifying and Acting on Opportunities for Policy and Advocacy

Incorporate population, reproductive health and family planning into global and national frameworks, policies and programs for climate change and sustainable development.

- Feed the Future
- Millennium Development Goals
- Sustainable Development Goals
- International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)
Summary of Key Points:

- Population matters for food insecurity
- The dual challenges of population growth and climate change are likely to make food insecurity worse
- National policies recognize the links between population, FP/RH, food insecurity, and climate change.
- Integrate population and FP/RH into policies and programs to address climate change and sustainable development.
- Prioritize population and FP/RH into national climate change and development strategies, with adequate resources for effective implementation of programs.