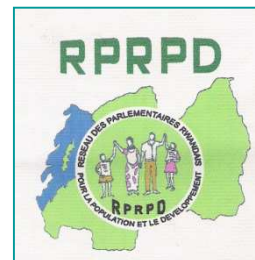


The Parliamentarians' Involvement in Population Issues



Hon. MPORANYI Theobald
Member of Parliament and
Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on
Population and Development-RPRPD



**3rd Eastern Africa Reproductive Health
Network (EARHN) Coordination Meeting:
Repositioning Family Planning and
Reproductive Health in East Africa
September 2-3, 2010
Imperial Royale Hotel , Kampala-Uganda**

Rwanda Population indicators (Mini DHS 2007/2008)

- Population + 10 million
- Under 15 years old: 50%
- Total Fertility Rate: 5.5
- Maternal Mortality Rate: 750/100 000 New Born
- Under five mortality 86/1000
- Modern Contraceptive Use 27 %

Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development

- Created as a structure connected to the National Assembly and officially launched in January 2003
 - Goal: to promote national policy on population and sustainable development
- Initiated and engaged in numerous activities aimed at improving standards of living, legal and regulatory framework, inter-parliamentary cooperation and implementation of programs focusing on poverty reduction and sustainable development



- Developed five-year strategic plan, 2009-2014
- Supported by partners including UNFPA, Hewlett Foundation, IntraHealth

Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development Mission and Objectives

- Mission: to facilitate recommendations of ICPD to promote policies on population and sustainable development



- Objectives
 - Promote and protect human rights and welfare of all people, especially women and children;
 - Fight against poverty;
 - Control AIDS, STIs and other diseases;
 - Promote reproductive health (especially for young women) and emphasizing family planning;
 - Reinforce parliamentarians abilities in advocacy skills and sub-regional, regional and international inter parliamentary cooperation

Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development RAPID Model Presentation

- RAPID model presented to parliament in May 2005, generated dialogue about population growth and economic development



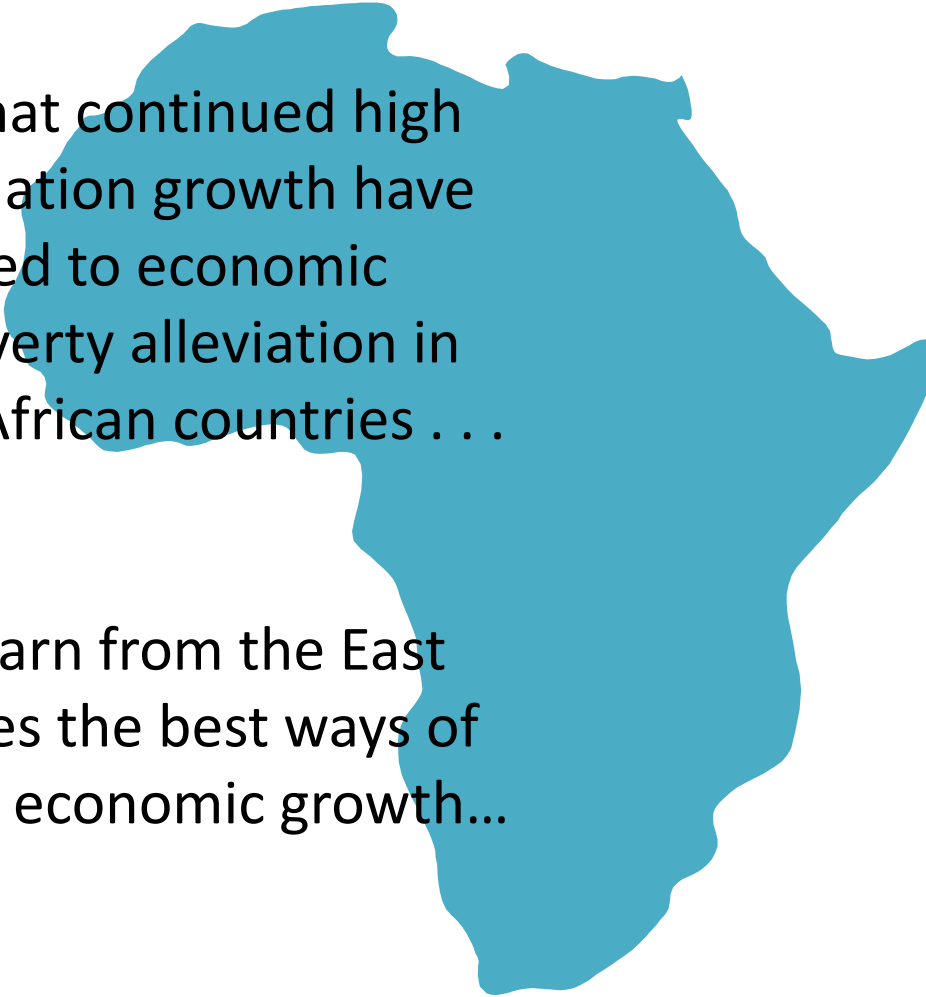
Two RAPID messages:

- 1) Slower population growth creates the potential to increase the pace of aggregate economic growth
- 2) Rapid fertility decline at the country level helps create a path out of poverty for many people

- Members found new motivation to advocate for policies (National Family Planning Policy, Revised National Population Policy) AND for behavior change among the population

Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development Response to RAPID Presentation

- recognition that continued high rates of population growth have not contributed to economic growth or poverty alleviation in high fertility African countries . . .
- we need to learn from the East Asian countries the best ways of achieving fast economic growth...



Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development

Strategic Interventions

- Starting in 2005, especially, began to support outreach and community mobilization
 - Advocate with the Government of Rwanda for supportive policy environment for reproductive health, family planning and population issues
 - Support trainings for parliamentarians, including advocacy skills, and for journalists
 - Facilitates field visits for parliamentarians for monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the national policy on population
- Supported interactive skills building advocacy workshop for all 30 district mayors
 - Organize discussions with communities such as women's associations and youth centers on development and reproductive health



Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development Strategic Interventions

“We get out and really TALK to our constituents about family planning, about their health, about the future of our country...”



- Initiated draft law on reproductive health,
- Maintains ongoing national dialogue on reproductive health with religious representatives
- Established and maintains a sub-regional connections among parliamentarians in the Great Lakes Region to harmonize the vision on population and development, reproductive health

Strategic Interventions cont'd

- Sensitization of university students
- Creation of Student Network on Population in different universities
- Partnership with Faith Based advocates networks

Population and Development in Rwanda

High-Quality Family Planning Services Widely Available

The Parliamentarians' advocacy, communication and mobilization also have been effective because high-quality family planning and reproductive health services are widely available...

- Decentralized and on-the-job training of health providers has drastically increased number of trained FP providers, and a wide range of methods (including *Jadelle* and IUD) are available at health center, and permanent methods at hospitals
- Family planning secondary posts meet needs of clients of Catholic-based health facilities
- Performance-based financing for health care facilities



The Results—Improved Health in Rwanda !!

	1992	2000	2005	2007/ 2008
infant mortality	85	107	86	62
under-five mortality	150	196	152	103
antenatal care (1 st visit)	94%	92%	94%	96%
skilled birth attendance	26%	31%	39%	53%
maternal mortality	---	1071	750	---*
contraceptive prevalence rate	13%	4%	10%	27%
total fertility rate	6.2	5.8	6.1	5.5

Demographic and Health Surveys

**NB: maternal mortality not measured in 1992 and 2007, will be measured in 2010 DHS*

Population and Development in Rwanda

Favorable Policy Environment

Family Planning successes have been effective because of a very favorable policy environment...

- High-level political and Leadership- President of the Republic, HE Paul Kagame has been champion in promoting Family Planning as a key in National Development;
- The National Dialogue has set FP as a Priority;
- Mayors have performance contracts that include a variety of health indicators including Family Planning;
- Reproductive Health and Family Planning Policy since 2004;
- Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy(EDPRS) 2008-2012 highlights the role of FP in National Development and makes it a priority;
- New National Population Policy (Spearheaded by MINECOFIN)

Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development Challenges and Way Forward

- Continuing to build on current successes, learning and applying best practices (need to keep this momentum going...)



- Continuing advocacy with Government of Rwanda to ensure adequate resources for family planning and other reproductive health services
- Need continued involvement of all sectors of Rwandan civil society, including religious leaders
- Changing socio-cultural norms takes time in a still pro-natalist environment
- Need to continue to invest in the education of the Rwandan population, especially girls and women (and also to involve men in reproductive health)

Thank you for your kind attention!

