
ICPD: a critical, hard fought paradigm shift on population

How ICPD influenced policies and programs and global goals

Pivot to broader framing: human rights to reproductive justice

: A critical, and hard-fought paradigm shift on population

- “ Hard fought Cairo consensus
- “ Repudiated demographic targets but not population dynamics
- “ Narrative that Cairo is only about SRHR limits the potential for ICPD

Facilitate the demographic transition
Provide voluntary FP in the context of RH
Improve maternal and child health outcomes
Promote empowerment of women
Protect Individual human rights
Ensure broad participation in policy development, notably women and youth

Analysis of Post-ICPD population policies from 15 African and Asian countries from 1994 to 2021:

ICPD broadened scope of policies, centering reproductive health and rights and women's empowerment
At the same time,

including human capital, demographic dividend, urbanization/ migration, environment and (more recently) climate change

: to bring demographic dynamics into alignment with development, wellbeing, and resources

's 2020 *National Population Policy* focuses on quality of life and wellbeing, including health, education and jobs, rather than on population size or growth (Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Director General of Uganda's National Population Council)

youth since ICPD, including

received an award during the World Health Assembly in 2013 for its participatory process of population policy development in 2012





ICPD forged on the bedrock of
human rights; reinforced
reproductive rights
Ongoing efforts to operationalize

“ - it was contentious in Cairo, despite the ‘Cairo Consensus’ and remains so – resulting in unproductive silence on the issue

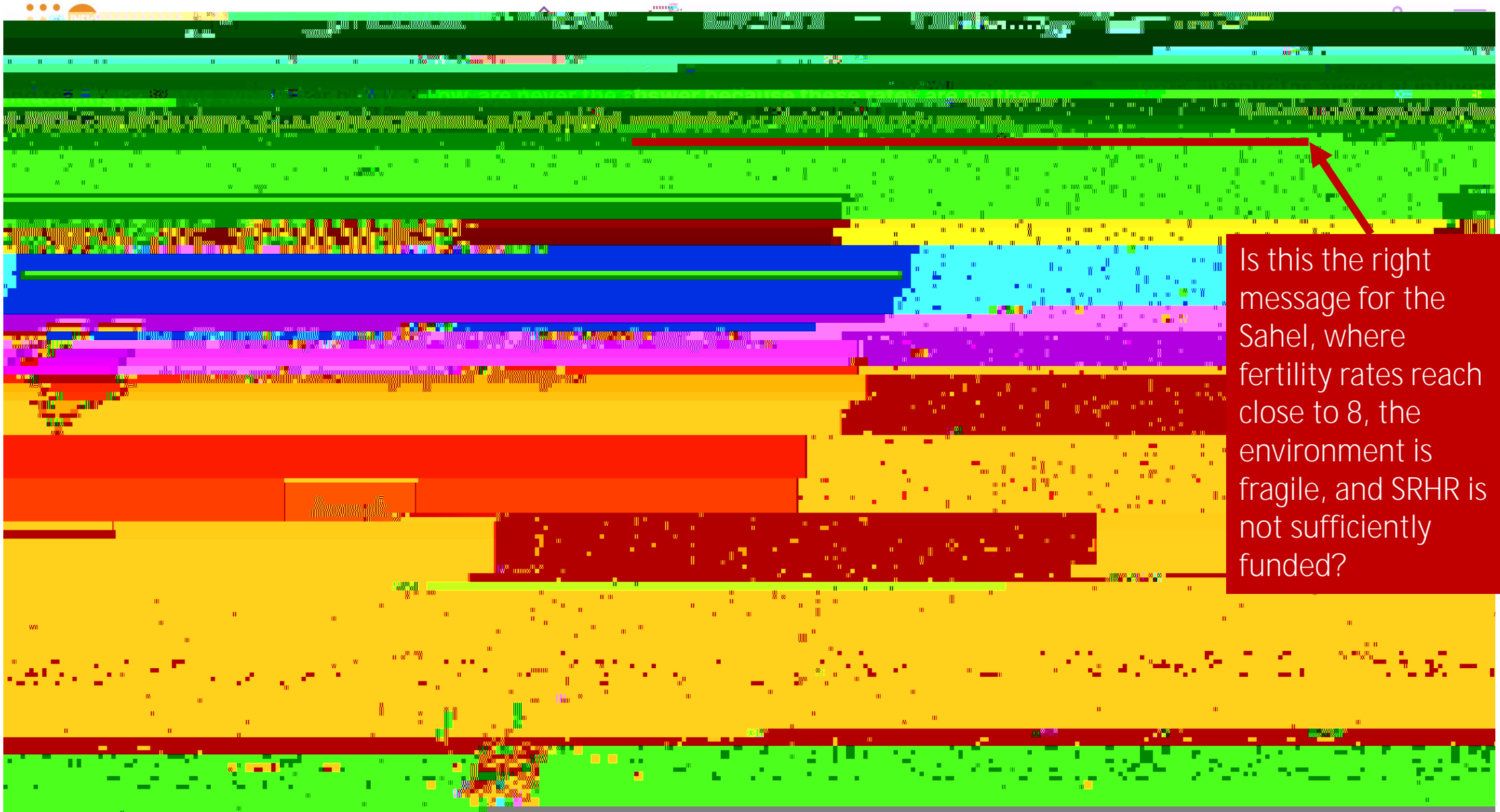
“ UNFPA 2022 SWOP
Cautioned against population anxiety – don’t worry about either over or under population

“ UN DESA 2022:
, but “
, if maintained over several decades, could be a more substantial reduction of global population growth in the second half of the century.”
Sustained high fertility and rapid population growth present
Population growth

“No one doubts the value of empowering women through education, but when population grows this fast, countries are simply not able to sustain their development. And when education and health systems are overwhelmed or fail all together, I can assure you that it is women and girls who suffer first and most” (Kanyoro, 2009).

15 years after the ICPD, a Kenyan leader of a foundation population program stressed that ignoring population jeopardizes achievement of the ICPD goals

While SRHR, gender and human rights are included in global goals, attention to population dynamics is muted at best.



Is this the right message for the Sahel, where fertility rates reach close to 8, the environment is fragile, and SRHR is not sufficiently funded?

