



**PSDA**

**POPULATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE**  
Respecting rights, meeting needs, building resilience

# Population and Sustainable Development

## Who are we?

The Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA) is an international network of civil society organisations from the global North and South that work together on population, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and sustainable development issues, in particular climate change. We believe that population dynamics – at the individual family as well as local community, national and regional level – is of critical importance for sustainable development, and can be positively influenced through ensuring universal access to SRHR.

## PSDA brings together organisations that:

- **Understand** the complex and sensitive nature of the linkages between population dynamics, consumption and sustainable development issues and SRHR.
- **Support** a comprehensive vision of SRHR and advocate for a focus on population dynamics in ways that respect and protect human rights;
- **Work at the community level** in integrated programmes combining the provision of voluntary family planning and other reproductive services with conservation and other sustainable development initiatives, increasing resilience to climate change and related environmental challenges, encouraging cooperation between sectors and government ministries, and ultimately improving human well-being in those communities.

# What we do

- Capacity building and coordination to strengthen our civil society voice in international processes related to sustainable development.
- Advocate for increased political and financial support for universal access to SRHR, and for its integration into wider policy and programme development as a means of increasing resilience, advancing environmental sustainability and improving human health and well-being.
- Foster constructive and accurate dialogue among policy-makers and civil society about population, SRHR, climate change and other sustainable development issues, and to counter misinformation or oversimplification of these complex but critical relationships.
- Raise awareness on unsustainable consumption patterns in developed states and on the need to support the developing states in adapting to the effects of climate change and building resilience.

*In 2014, PSDA supported its member organisation PFPI to advocate for an integrated population, health and environment approach in national plans and in the Philippines national post-2015 development agenda.*

*PSDA also supported member organisation Eminence to develop a photo campaign documenting the link between access to SRHR and the effects on the environment to stimulate political commitment to SRHR.*

*"Family planning is to maternal health what immunisation is to child health"*

First Lady Janet Museveni, Uganda

Blue Ventures (BV) is a marine conservation organisation that recognises the inextricable links between poor health, unmet family planning needs, food insecurity, environmental degradation and vulnerability to climate change. BV has developed a holistic approach often referred to as "Population-Health-Environment" (PHE), integrating reproductive health services with marine resource management and alternative coastal livelihood initiatives. Blue Ventures' PHE programmes currently reach over 25,000 people across 60 communities along Madagascar's west coast. In the Velondriake locally managed marine area, the proportion of women using contraceptives has increased more than fivefold from 10% in 2007 to 55% in 2013, while the general fertility rate has fallen by over a third, improving food security, allowing women to play a more active role in fisheries management, and enhancing the sustainability of local marine conservation efforts.

# A Sustainable Population: A win-win for women and the planet

Lack of access to family planning, and modern methods of contraception in particular, is a major cause of persistent high fertility in the least developed countries.

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Reproductive health services, including family planning, have been shown to improve women's empowerment, public health and economic well-being. Satisfying unmet need for family planning would also prevent at least 34 gigatons of carbon emissions between 2010 and 2050. **The United Nations Framework Convention**

**on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognises family planning as a climate adaptation strategy, with family planning projects eligible for climate adaptation financing.**

Slowing population growth is not all we must do - but it is an important and cost-effective strategy. International cooperation is vital to reduce carbon emissions, in particular on behalf of wealthy nations who are exacerbating and accelerating climate change.

## Our Members



Chair



Population & Sustainability Network

Secretariat





## Contact us

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### Policy asks/recommendations:

- **Increase funding earmarked for the reproductive health agenda:** Research shows that for every dollar spent on family planning, between 2 and 6 dollars can be saved in interventions aimed at achieving other development goals.<sup>1</sup>
- **Keep temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius:** Concerted government effort to further commitments to reduce resource consumption and carbon emissions particularly in wealthy nations- and support low-carbon development.
- **Invest in the cross-cutting issues of health, education, gender equality, empowerment of youth and human rights:** These critical investments offer opportunities to improve human health and well-being and advance each of the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.
- **Recognise access to SRHR as a cost-effective climate compatible development strategy:** access to SRHR should be included as a cross-cutting and cost-effective strategy in addressing global environmental challenges, in particular climate change.

<sup>1</sup> Moreland, S. & Talbird, S (2006) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: The contribution of fulfilling the unmet need for family planning. Washington D. C: USAID.