

# National Population Council

## **Editorial**

As a continuation of the series of the Population Voice Newsletter, the National Population Council/General Secretariat (NPC/GS) is pleased to release the Population Voice Newsletter for 2010 which sheds lights on the most important achievements and activities of the NPC/GS in 2010, besides a comprehensive coverage of the report of the Sudan on progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2010. We wish the reader interesting and useful readings in this issue.

### **Sudan Report on Progress Made in the MDGs/2010**

Sudan was among 189 countries who have signed the Global Declaration of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in New York in 2000, where world leaders agreed to adopt eight goals and objectives which were time bound and measurable, set to be achieved by 2015. Universally known as the Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide concrete, numerical benchmarks for tackling extreme poverty in its many dimensions.

Those eight goals namely are:-

- Goal 1:** Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4:** Reduce Child mortality
- Goal 5:** Improve maternal health
- Goal 6:** Combat AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal8:** Develop a global partnership for development.

The eight MDGs break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators, it has been agreed recently that, countries have the freedom to add indicators where appropriate.

In this regard, the Sudan report on the MDGs has been developed in 2010 to highlight the progress made during the period 2004 (first transitional report)- 2009.

The NPC has been appointed as identified the national focal point for coordinating the efforts and all matters regarding the measurement of the MGDs indicators. Hence, a project document has been signed between the NPC, the Ministry of International Cooperation and UNDP.

UNDP has funded the project ***“Enhanced National Capacities to Plan, Implement and Monitor the Achieved MDGs”*** and provided technical assistance.

The key partners for this project are the Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, and Central Bureau of Statistics, in addition to the National Council for Strategic Planning and the Cabinet Decision Support Center.

The General Secretariat has worked hard to involve all relevant actors regarding the indicators for achieving the Millennium Goals. Thus, various technical committees headed by relevant agencies, official bodies in charge of each goal were formed with membership of relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies, with active participation of UN agencies. Each committee was led by the relevant governmental body with the NPC General Secretariat (SG) as rapporteur for all committees. To ascertain the nationality of the report, the SG was keen to engage the Government of the Southern Sudan from the initial preparation stage. Therefore, the Southern Sudan Centre for Census Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE) was chosen to lead and coordinate the report work at the Southern Sudan level. Hence, various technical committees parallel to the ones in the north have been formed. A regional report on the south has been developed corresponding to the one of the north and the two reports have been incorporated in to one consolidated national report.

The report has been drafted through several stages at all levels, starting with meetings of sub-committees, the high committee to meetings of the Council of the Minister of Welfare and Social Security, in addition to different sectors of the Council of Ministers who endorsed it. Consequently, Sudan statement (report executive summary) was presented in the meetings of session 65 for the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2010 in New York. The report has been launched in a national workshop coordinated by the NPC/GS at El Fatih Tower on October 26 2010. Concerned parties, interested in development issues besides UN agencies and civil society organizations working in the field of population attended and actively participated in the workshop.

It is worth mentioning that the NPC/GS is planning to implement the second phase of the project in regard to localization of the MDGs and building national capacity for those working in the relevant area to enable them identify/ set priorities and needs of the preparation and development of reports.

### **Highlights on NPC/GS Activities-2010**

As part of its work plan for this year, the NPC/GS has achieved a number of activities, including but not limited to:-

#### **1- Integration of Population Issues**

Aiming at raising national capacity in integrating population dynamics and characteristics in development plans and programs, the General Secretariat organized a training workshop during October 5 – 6, 2010 at NPC/ GS Hall. The number of participants was 25 trainees, representing the Ministry of Agriculture, the Higher Education, the Higher Council for Environment Gender and poverty departments represented by the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, the National Council for Childhood and the Council of Strategic Planning and Statistics. It is worth noting that this workshop has been conducted as part of the second phase of the Integration Project.

## 2- Forums of civil society organizations working in the field of population and development

- ✚ As a continuation of series of these forums, the 22<sup>nd</sup> forum was conducted on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the National Council for Child Welfare Hall, under the theme "**Population and Good Governance**", as good governance is one of the mechanisms through which the State power can be used for the benefit of the population. Dr. Abdel Rahim Bilal presented a paper on Population and Good Governance. A group of experts and activists in this area participated in the forum.
- ✚ The 23<sup>rd</sup> forum aimed to enlighten the concerned parties on the Millennium Development Goals and the report of the Sudan on the MDGs in 2010. Thus, a working paper on "**Millennium Development Goals and the Sudan Report of the MDGs in 2010**" was presented by Dr. Mohammed Sayed from UNDP. Specialized experts and interested figures were actively participated. The forum took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, 2010 at the Sudanese Banks Union Hall.
- ✚ The 24<sup>th</sup> forum on "**The Impact of Climate Change on Population Dynamics**" was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 at the Sudanese Banks Union Hall. The forum discussed a paper prepared by Ms. Amna Abu El Joukh on "**the Impact of Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change on Population Dynamics**". Discussion initiated by Dr. Ismail El Gozouli from the Higher Council of Environment with participation of Dr. Saad El Din Ibrahim, the Secretary General of the Higher Council of Environment.

## **World Population Day**

The 11th July marks the anniversary celebration of World Population Day every year; where the NPC/GS has been celebrating this event every year at both national and state levels with partners.

The celebration of this year under the theme "Every one counts." This year World Population Day highlights the importance of data for development. The focus is on the 2010 round of the population and housing census; data analysis for development, hence counting everyone is an integral part of ensuring that we take everyone into account. The NPC/GS organized a workshop on July 18, 2010 at the Sudanese Banks Union Hall, addressed by Ms. Amira Al-Fadil, the Minister of Welfare and Social Security, Co-Chairperson of the NPC and Prof. Sit El Nafar Mahgoub, Secretary-General of the NPC and Dr. Sharara Amir Khalili, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Sudan. All partners from relevant actors were actively participating.

## **4- Sudan Population Dynamics and Characteristics Report**

As a continuation of the series of the report of Sudan population dynamics and characteristics, a report has been developed for the year 2008, including three sections, namely: population size and distribution, population dynamics and some selected socio-economic indicators. Work is underway to produce a two years report for 2009 and 2010 to be released by the end of 2010.

## **5- Utilization of Census Data Workshop**

To benefit from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sudan Population and Housing Census 2008 data, the NPC/GS organized a workshop on *"Utilization of census data tracking MDGs"* on 8 August 2010, at El Fateh Tower, and as to monitor progress made regarding the preparation of Sudan report of the Millennium Development Goals in 2010. The workshop was addressed by Her Excellency, Mrs. Amira El Fadil, Minister of Welfare and Social Security, Prof. Sit El Nafar Secretary-General of the NPC, Dr. Yassin El Haj Abdi, Director General of Central Bureau of Statistics, and Resident Representative UNFPA in Sudan.

The workshop discussed two working papers; the first one titled "*How to make use of census data in regards to the preparation of Sudan report on the MDGs*" by Dr. Mohamed El-Sayed from UNDP. The second paper was on "*Challenges faced Countries Affected by Conflict s in Achieving the MDGs Millennium*": *Sudan experience*, by Mr. Abbas Younis Adam MDGs/ UNDP Adviser.

#### **6- Advocacy and Population Awareness**

As part of awareness raising and advocacy programs on population issues and the report of the MDGs of 2010, a number of workshops had been conducted to enlighten different media segments in partnership with the National Council for Press and Publications and National Radio Cooperation. For instance, an orientation workshop targeting the National TV and National Radio personnel was organized at the National Radio premises on 13 July, 2010 to sensitize them on population issues and the role of media in raising awareness in this regards, the workshop was addressed by the NPC Secretary General and The National Radio Director General. Another orientation workshop was conducted on 26 July, 2010, at National Council for Press and Publications Hall, addressed by Deputy Chairperson of the National Press and Publications Council, Secretary-General of the NPC and the representative of UNDP.

Moreover, SUNA News Forum was held, and invited the Minister of Welfare and Social Security and the NPC Secretary General on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2010 to brief on Sudan participation in the UN General Assembly meetings and the Summit of MDGs in September 2010.

#### **7- Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Training Workshop**

The NPC/GS organized a training workshop on M&E during 10-11 October, 2010 at NPC/GS Hall. The objective of the workshop was to train participants on basic projects monitoring and evaluating tools and techniques. Thirty participants from partners representing federal ministries and NGOs were trained.

## 8- Migration and Socio-cultural Impacts in Sudan

The NPC/GS organized a workshop on "*the Socio-cultural Impacts of Migration in Sudan*" under auspices of her Excellency, the Minister of Welfare and Social Security who addressed the workshop, besides the NPC Secretary General. Two working papers were presented and discussed. The first one presented by Mr. Sid Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed was on "*The Findings of Migration and Population Mobility Study*", undertaken by the NPC, and the second one on "**the Socio-Cultural Effects of Internal and International Migration in Sudan**" presented by Dr. Burhan El Ghazali, Director of Scientific Affairs at the Security Academy. Discussion initiated by Dr. Sharaf El Din Banaga, the expert in migration and human habitat. The workshop was characterized by specialized participants that resulted in constructive recommendations.

### NPC/GS Participations

- ✚ The Minister of Welfare and Social Security/the Co-Chairperson of the NPC chaired Sudan delegation in the UN General Assembly meetings on the MDGs in September 2010. it is worth mentioning that the delegation composed of the NPC Secretary General, the focal point of MDGs project at the NPC, other two representatives, one from Ministry of Finance and National Economy and one from Ministry of International Cooperation
- ✚ Prof. Sit Al Nafar Mahgoub, the NPC Secretary General led the Sudan delegation participating in the 12th meeting of the Heads/Chairpersons of the Population National Committees and Councils of Arab States which was held in Sharam El Sheikh in Egypt, 29th November- 1st December, 2010. The meeting addressed the implementation status of the recommendations of Al Doha Declaration 2009. The Sudan report regarding Doha Declaration was presented by the NCP/SG. Prof. Sit Anafar. The meeting had also deliberated on other issues, such as brain drain, and maternal and youth health in the Arab region.
- ✚ The NPC Secretary-General had also participated in the Ministerial Meeting on "Exploring the Achievement of the MDGs in Countries affected by conflicts", which was held in Ghana / Dakar, during 20 - 21 July 2010.

## **States News**

### **Kassala state:**

Kassala State Population Council in coordination with the NPC/GS, organized during January 4 -7 2010, a workshop under the theme "*Towards common awareness on population and development issues*", a number of papers presented on demographic indicators of the state, reproductive health and HIV/ AIDS.

### **Northern and River Nile States**

The two states in coordination with and participation of the NPC/GS celebrated the World Population Day on 11-13 July, 2010 by organizing a ceremony where all relevant actors in the two states participated with forefront of governors and ministers.

### **Training workshop for states councils Secretary Generals**

The States Affairs Unit at the NPC/GS organized a training workshop on October 27, 2010, at the NPC/GS premises targeting the States Population Councils Secretary Generals, it focused on a number of demographic concepts besides discussion of the priorities of the states councils work and challenges been faced, as well as presentation of the states performance reports.

### **Red Sea State**

A delegation from the GS undertook a field trip to the Red Sea State during 8 -11 November 2010, as part of the GS efforts to strengthen and activate the states population councils. The trip also aimed to collect statistical data that was used in the preparation of the report of the MDGs of Eastern Sudan States, which was presented at the donor conference for the Development of Eastern Sudan.

### **Kassla and Gadaref States**

Two training sessions were conducted at the two states during 16-21 November, on "*Population projections and Identification of Population Future Needs*". Twenty five participants from each state were trained. They were representing the following: the two states population councils, statistics offices, States Ministries of: General Education, Higher Education, Health, Agriculture, Finance, Social Addairs, Youth and Sports, and Information Centers, Strategic Planning Council and relevant NGOs.