

In the name of God the Merciful

Population's Voice- Issue No2- 2011

Editorial Board

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Editorial

We have the pleasure to introduce to the readers the second issue of the Population's Voice Newsletter for 2011 which coincides with the start of the work of the review and update of the national population policy which was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2002. This update is crucially required as a result of the changes and developments that have taken place recently in Sudan. This issue also corresponds with the preparation of the country Second Five-Year Strategic Plan, and the national population policy represents one of its important references.

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The Importance of population Policies

The General Concept of Population Policy:

The population policy is part of the state higher strategy which reflects the style and pattern of the survival of a certain society. It includes perspectives and means and believes that the society through which is maintaining to survive and achieve its ambitions. The number of population policies, emerge from these strategies include: the organization of the society capacity in certain areas, it expresses its goals, trends, tools and means which the society would follow to achieve its objectives in the long term. According to this concept, a population policy includes a number of procedures, plans and programs designed to influence the population variables and the structural composition of the population in quantitative and qualitative manner and in accordance with the society needs and requirements for growth and welfare of its citizens. Population policy is not only concerned with addressing the rapid population growth problem, but also includes programs to organize population migration as to reach a balanced population distribution, regulate the movement and distribution of the labor force and the contribution of women in economic activity and enhance social empowerment of women.

Definition of Population Policy:

Population policy is defined as the strategic actions, legislative procedures, administrative and programmatic interventions that aim to make quantitative and qualitative changes in population variables and characteristics. It also aim to promote the demographic behavior of individuals and improve the use of natural, environmental resources, and correct the economic and social development trend and achieve a balance between population growth and available resources and progress in scientific and technological fields.

Endorsement of the Sudan National Population Policy (NPP)

The Sudan National population policy and its work plan that covered its objectives were approved for the first time in Sudan in 2002. It has resulted in positive changes on some demographic indicators as observed in the results of the recent population census 2008 and some specialized surveys (Household Health surveys, 2006 and 2010, poverty survey 2009). For instance, there was gradual decrease in the annual population growth rate from 2.7 in 1998 to 2.48 in 2008. Despite the decline in population growth rate, Sudan is still classified among sub-Saharan African countries with high population growth rates.

The period following the approval of the national population policy, has witnessed significant changes in Sudan, such as the signing of the comprehensive peace agreements and the secession of southern Sudan, which have their effect on population movement and the demographic and ethnic characteristics of the population in both countries. The discovery and export of oil has led to the flow of population coming across the borders of Sudan. Also the global economic crisis and political tensions in the Arab region led to the escalation of return migration streams.

The reasons behind reviewing and updating the national population policy are:-

- The availability of a better data base (census data 2008, the Sudan Household Surveys, 2006 and 2010, and the poverty survey, 2009).
- Secession of the south.
- The global economic crisis.
- Constitutional developments in Sudan

Implementation Mechanisms of the National Population Policy:

- 1- The Higher Technical Committee of the National Population Council, as per the ministerial decree, which was made up of the undersecretaries of the relevant ministries and institutions.

- 2- The Coordination working groups, which represent the focal points in ministries.
- 3- The Technical Advisory Committees.
- 4- The states population councils.
- 5- The Forum of NGOs/CSOs working in the field of population and development.

Some Selected Demographic Indicators from the 5th Sudan Population Census 2008 (Northern States):-

- 1- Northern states population: 31.894
- 2- Percentage of Northern States population from total Sudan (previously north and south): 78.9%.
- 3- The annual population growth rate: 2.48.
- 4- Crude birth rate: 26.3.
- 5- Crude death rate: 36.00.
- 6- Life expectancy at birth: 59

The NPC/GS's Most Important Activities.

- 1- As part of the national capacity building in monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a training of trainers (TOT) workshop on localization of the MDGs was held during 29-31 March, 2011 at the NPC/GS meetings Hall. Twenty one participants representing the NPC/GS and partners of the National Council for Strategic Planning and the Central Bureau of Statistics were trained.
- 2- As part of the preparation of states reports on localization of the Millennium Development Goals, research teams of the NPC/GS conducted field visits to different States during the period April - July 2011 to collect data and information on the status

of the MDGs at states levels. The visited states were: the River Nile, Norther, North, South and West Darfur, Blue Nile, Sinnar, North Kordofan, White Nile and Khartoum.

States News

Kassala State

As part of the NPC/GS efforts to enforce and activate the states' population councils, the NPC/GS in collaboration with the Kassala State Population Council and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) held a workshop on 6 March, 2011, at the State Ministry of Social Affairs and Culture Hall, under the theme: **how to make use of the 5th population census data**" Three working papers were presented as follows:-

- 1- The Millennium Development Goals Report for Eastern Sudan, by Mr. Mukhtar Mohamed Mukhtar.
- 2- How to make use of census data, by Ms. Hanadi Hassan Mahjoub.
- 3- Integration of population characteristics and variables in development plans at state level, by Mr. Nizar El TayebRabah.

Gedarif State

As part of the state's population council's enforcement, the NPC/GS in collaboration with the Gadaref Population Council and UNFPA held a workshop on 8 March, 2011 under the theme: How to make use of census data at the Ministry of Social and Culture Affairs, same above papers presented in Kassala were presented in Gedarif by the same presenters.

External Participations

1- The (44th) Session of the United Nations Population and Development Committee:

Sudan participated in the (44th) session of the United Nations General Assembly Population and Development Committee, as an observer which has all the rights of participation in discussing the committee decisions, and implementation. The session was organized by the

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations during the period April 11 to 15, 2011.

Prof. Sit El NafarMahjoub Badi, NPC Secretary General headed the Sudan delegation which consisted of four people, of whom herself and three researchers from the NPC/GS.

The meeting agenda were:

- The Secretary-General of the United Nations report on fertility, reproductive health and development.
- A report on the flow of financial resources required for implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The meetings deliberated on local experience in population issues as well as the future of the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

It is worth mentioning that the population and development issues have been raised before in the meetings of the Annual Ministerial Review of the UN Economic and Social Council for 2011.

The Sudan delegation met with Ms. Purnima Mann, the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director who welcomed the delegation of the Sudan, and emphasized the UNFPA's support to the population development in Sudan. Moreover she stressed on the importance of coordination between UNFPA and the Government of Sudan to enhance the added value of the technical assistance to the field of population. She also confirmed that the funding situation of UNFPA is stable. Ms. Punima confirmed her support in providing the necessary assistance, particularly the technical one, and stressed on UNFPA's support for Sudan in migration and refugees issues. Moreover, she emphasized on the important role that partners can play in providing this assistance

2 - Training Workshop on achieving of the Millennium Development Goals:

Aiming to build the capacity of the personnel working in the project of localization of the Millennium Development Goals in Sudan in collaboration with the UNDP, Sudan participated

by two participants in the training workshop organized by the **World Bank Institute** during the period 2-6 May, 2011, Budapest, Hungary, under the theme "**Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: poverty reduction, reproductive health and health sector reform.**".

The workshop had an introductory session and other sessions which addressed several issues including:

- Why worry about the economy?
- Paths to improve reproductive health outcomes.
- The World Bank action plan for reproductive health.
- The health system.
- Inequalities in health services.
- Poverty reduction strategy and the interrelation between the reproductive health and poverty.
- Equalities in the MDGs.

Congratulations:

The NPC/GS staff congratulates the readers and the people of Sudan on the holy month of Ramadan and praying that God will bring it back and the Sudan in prosperous future, peaceful, secure and stable.

