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The Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo outlines specific funding targets to be met to achieve the ICPD population and development objectives. The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Sessions (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS urges the international community to supplement the efforts of developing countries through increased international development assistance, particularly for those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS. The project on 'Financial Resource Flows for Population and AIDS Activities' aims at monitoring expenditures and future commitments for population and AIDS programmes in response to the ICPD and the UNGASS on HIV/AIDS.

The Resource Flows project is a joint collaboration between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI).

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UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Newsletter. September 2004

The purpose of the UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Newsletter is to inform donor and developing country governments, public and private organisations, research institutes, universities and civil society about resource tracking for population and AIDS activities in general and the role of the Resource Flows (RF) project in particular. This first newsletter describes some of the achievements and challenges of the RF project in tracking the flow of resources to population and AIDS activities.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS

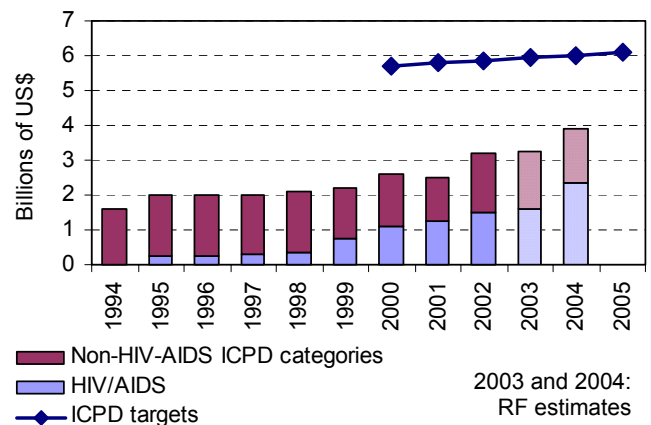
This year marks the tenth anniversary of ICPD, where donor governments, developing countries and countries in transition committed themselves to financing population, AIDS and development objectives to eradicate poverty and achieve economic growth in the context of sustainable development.

At the ICPD, 180 countries adopted a Programme of Action that specified the financial resources – both domestic and donor funds – that would be necessary to implement the population and reproductive health package over the next 20 years. This 'costed-population package' included family planning services, basic reproductive health services, STD/HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. By 2000, an estimated US\$ 17 billion would have been necessary to implement this package. This amount would need to increase to US\$ 18.5 billion and US\$ 21.7 billion by 2005 and 2015 respectively. Moreover, it was agreed that two thirds of these funds would be generated locally by developing countries and countries in transition. Similarly, at the 2001 UNGASS meeting, governments committed themselves to achieving an annual expenditure target of US\$ 7 to 10 billion on the AIDS epidemic by 2005. These HIV/AIDS targets

should include expenditures on prevention, treatment and care, and social mitigation and support.

Unfortunately however, the current scenario is very different. In 2000, *actual* expenditures for population and AIDS activities were not even two thirds of the ICPD target. The RF project indicated that in that year, a total of only US\$ 11.2 billion was spent: US\$ 8.6 billion by developing countries and countries in transition and only US\$ 2.6 billion by donor countries (see *Figure 1*). The portion donors spent on HIV/AIDS specifically, increased to US\$ 2.4 billion in 2004. This amount is clearly insufficient to help bridge the gap to the 2005 target of US\$ 7-10 billion.

Figure 1: Actual donor assistance as compared to ICPD donor targets





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The message 10 years after ICPD and the recent XVth International AIDS Conference in Bangkok is clear: current levels of resource mobilisation are inadequate to fully implement the Cairo and UNGASS agendas. The consequences of resource shortfalls include significant increases in unintended pregnancies, abortions, maternal and infant mortality as well as AIDS-related morbidity and mortality. Population and reproductive health are considered central to development and must be included in development programmes and poverty reduction strategies.

"The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And that means stronger efforts to promote women's rights, and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning."

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Bangkok,
December 2002

The UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project: 1997 – 2003

UNFPA has regularly collected data and reported on international financial assistance to population activities. In light of the ICPD and at the request of the UN Commission on Population and Development, UNFPA updated its reporting system and began collecting data on domestic expenditures in developing countries. In 1997, UNFPA subcontracted NIDI to collect the above mentioned data. This new collaboration became the UNFPA/NIDI Resource Flows Project. In 1999, in order to consolidate efforts and avoid duplication, UNAIDS joined the RF project.

Over the last seven years, the monitoring of financial resource flows for population and AIDS activities was refined and new activities were added to enhance data quality, coverage and efficiency. The RF project has remained the only source of information on world-wide expenditures on population and AIDS activities.

The major accomplishments of the RF project include the harmonisation of ICPD concepts and definitions amongst donors and the development of streamlined questionnaires customised to collect and report on data about donor funding and domestic expenditures for population and AIDS activities. Data are stored in a tailor-made relational database, capable of addressing new challenges in data collection. The RF team further strengthened domestic data collection by conducting in-depth country case studies¹, thereby contributing to building local capacity to monitor resource flows on population and AIDS activities.

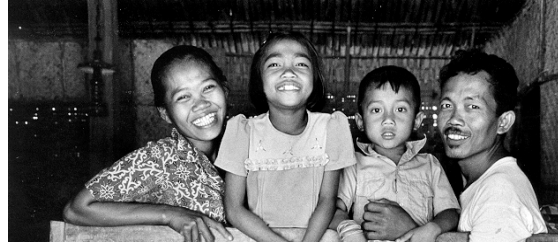
Major Accomplishments

- Collected data on donor assistance and domestic expenditures
- Harmonised concepts and definitions
- Developed a relational database adaptable to evolving project needs
- Conducted 15 country case studies
- Piloted national databases in Iran and Cambodia

¹ Case studies were conducted in Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Thailand.



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Evolving needs have presented a number of challenges to the RF project. These included collecting data on sub-national level expenditures, estimating the population and AIDS component in integrated projects and sector-wide approaches (SWAs) and collecting data on private sector expenditures, including household expenses. In addition, UNFPA and UNAIDS reiterated their need for more up-to-date data for both reporting and advocacy purposes. In order to address these challenges, the RF project not only restructured its current data collection procedure, but has also undertaken several activities in addition to the annual core survey.

Challenges Faced

- Addressing declining response rates
- Getting timely data
- Collecting data on lower administrative level expenditures
- Estimating the population and AIDS component in integrated projects and SWAs
- Collecting data on private sector expenditures, including household expenses

New Developments in the RF Project

Real-time estimates and projections

In 2003 the RF project developed a methodology to produce real-time (current year) estimates of donor assistance and domestic expenditures per region for the four ICPD categories. The pilot concentrated on collecting primary and secondary data from a selected number of donors, developing countries and countries in transition. In 2004, the project will also develop a methodology on projections for future expenditures. Both these activities will meet UNFPA and UNAIDS' advocacy needs and identifying gaps in funding for population and AIDS activities.

Thematic Studies: improving coverage and quality

Next to providing more up-to-date information, the RF project has undertaken three thematic studies to provide a more comprehensive picture of resource flows to population and AIDS activities. One study aims at refining and expanding the current methodology to estimate domestic expenditures for 2004. These 'global estimations' are necessary to capture expenditures from those countries that have not reported, as well as to estimate expenditures at lower administrative levels and private sector expenditures, that also includes out-of-pocket expenses by households.

A second thematic study that addresses this issue, aims to develop a Reproductive Health Account (RHA). A RHA is a satellite of a National Health Account, and captures reproductive health expenditures as a sub-category of overall health expenditures in a particular country. A first research paper will outline the principles of establishing Reproductive Health Accounts. This will be followed up with a case study to test the newly developed RHA framework.

In addition to the Reproductive Health Account, the RF team will produce a study on estimating the population and AIDS component in integrated projects and SWAs. It is believed that all the thematic studies will contribute to building local capacity.

Reproductive Health Account

A Reproductive Health Account includes a set of tables identifying key actors, activities and financial transactions in the realm of reproductive health, thereby allowing the RF team to effectively track the flow of resources for reproductive health activities.



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Revised Mail Surveys

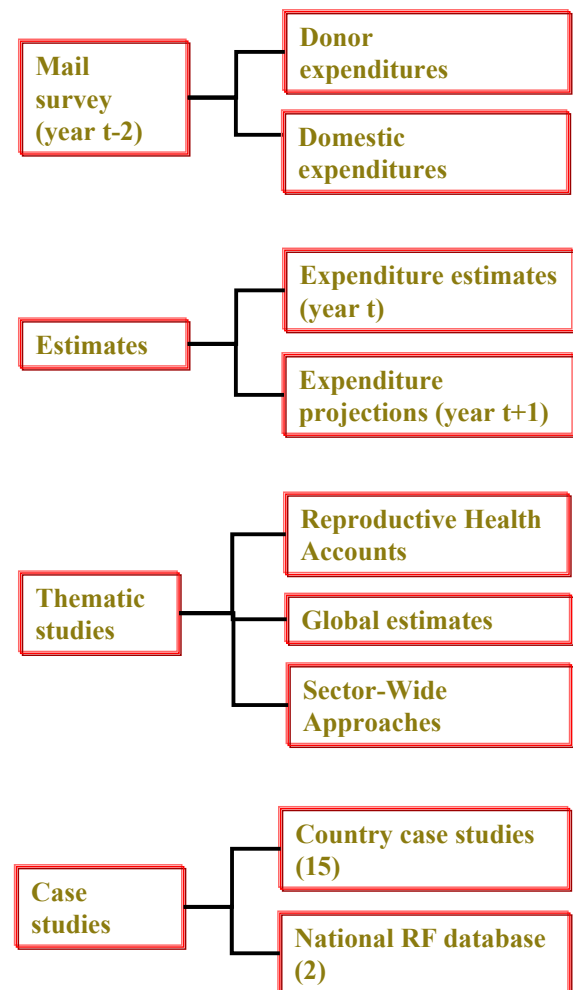
To help minimise respondent fatigue and the logistical burden, the current questionnaires were streamlined and only distributed to key donor and developing countries and countries in transition, Governments and organisations in the field of population and AIDS activities. Furthermore, the RF project strengthened its collaboration with OECD/DAC and extracts some information on donor government assistance to population and AIDS activities directly from the OECD database.

By tracking the flow of financial resources to population and AIDS activities, the RF Project has highlighted the gap between the financial commitments made at ICPD and UNGASS and current expenditures on population and AIDS activities. Furthermore, the recently implemented estimation exercise will allow actors in the field to not only assess past and current trends, but also project future expenditures. Finally, the RHA and SWAp thematic studies will further develop, strengthen and embed the monitoring and evaluation of resource flows to population and AIDS activities. The RF projects' activities allows donors and governments of developing countries and countries in transition, public and private organisations and civil society to assess the impact of funding on the achievement of the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action, the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment and the Millennium Development Goals.

Revised Mail Surveys

The new sample surveyed allows the RF team to obtain approximately 90% of the information on resource flows for population and AIDS activities from about half of the originally surveyed donors and developing countries and countries in transition.

Figure 2: Major activities in the Resource Flows project



The Resource Flows project is planning to produce three newsletters per year. The next issue, which will focus on Thematic Studies will be published in January 2005. All newsletters will be posted on the newly designed Resource Flows web page (www.resourceflows.org or www.nidi.nl/resflows). If you have any comments or suggestions about the Resource Flows Newsletter, please e-mail us at resflows@nidi.nl.