

POPULATION PROGRAMS

Population pressures and global health concerns are complex international challenges that call for multidisciplinary approaches designed to achieve long-term benefits. Recognizing the essential role of international education and capacity building in addressing these challenges, in 2002 IIE West Coast Center established a new Population Programs division. We are currently implementing two major population programs: 1) Leadership Development Mechanism (LDM) for Reproductive Health and Population, funded by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and 2) Census of Human Capacity in Population, supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The overall goals of these programs are to foster leadership development among population leaders and to create a broad-based profile of the geographic distribution of population expertise in developing countries.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (LDM) PROGRAM

The Leadership Development Mechanism program is a unique population leadership program that supports training opportunities for population leaders who live and work in the poorest regions of eight focus countries: Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and Sudan. Many of these population leaders work on such pressing global health issues as HIV/AIDS, adolescent reproductive health and gender-based violence. Through IIE's population leadership program, these leaders have the opportunity to study and examine population and global health issues by undergoing training and graduate study programs in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, Australia and the U.S.

Placing priority on women, youth and media professionals, the program recognizes the need to balance global gender inequalities, train today's youth to lead tomorrow's population programs, and gain the commitment of media leaders to promote population issues and family planning.

Of the over 300 leaders already supported, the majority participated in short-term leadership or reproductive health training courses in their own countries or in regional settings. In 2004-2005, the LDM program will focus on enhancing the knowledge and skills of 125 additional leaders in reproductive health and population in five focus countries: Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Program Objectives

- Enhance knowledge and expand skills of 125 newly selected leaders in reproductive health and population through high quality training experiences, with in-country and regional training opportunities
- Core-build among 425 LDM and other Packard Fellows to improve family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) services in focus countries
- Respond to special capacity development needs of FP/RH leaders

Training Courses

The LDM will support participation in four major types of training courses:

- Reproductive health and population knowledge (STD/HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, family planning, safe motherhood, emergency obstetrics);
- Leadership skills development (management, communication, strategic planning);
- Technical training (program planning and evaluation, needs assessment, research); and
- Gender and population.

The LDM maintains an extensive global database of relevant training opportunities in the focus countries, regional settings and in the U.S. LDM staff assists candidates to research and select appropriate courses.

Post-Training Activities

After completing their training courses, LDM participants become part of an active international alumni network. IIE works with this network to help sustain commitment and mobilize action in the reproductive health field. Follow-up activities include in-country Fellow conferences and mini-grants to support LDM Fellows as they collaborate to translate what they have learned into action.

CENSUS OF HUMAN CAPACITY IN POPULATION PROGRAM

The Census of Human Capacity in Population program is a new research project, a global census of human capacity in the fields of reproductive health and population in at least 50 developing countries.

Program Goal

The goal of this project is to increase knowledge and understanding of human capacity in population/reproductive health in developing countries. The project will create a global profile of the geographic distribution of population expertise and thereby identify countries where targeted investments are most effectively increasing population expertise.

Program Objectives

- To gather and centralize secondary data on human capacity in population/reproductive health from at least 50 developing countries;
- To assess the human capacity in population/reproductive health in at least 50 developing countries;
- To examine the relationship (if any) between population experts and reproductive health outcomes in selected countries;
- To identify the training capacities and gaps in the selected countries; and
- To increase access to information on human capacity in population/reproductive health.

Research Design

Phase I: During this phase the project focuses on gathering data to identify population/reproductive health experts in at least 50 countries for which data exist. For each country, we are gathering information on the number and type of population experts, their education, professional affiliations, fields of expertise, years of experience in the field, and training history. The main goals of Phase I are to gather census data on population/reproductive health experts in these countries, and to produce a comprehensive list of the population experts thereby identified. We will then analyze the relationships between human capacity and reproductive health outcomes in these countries and identify those countries with either particularly good or poor reproductive health outcomes and corresponding levels (high or low) of population expertise.

Phase II: Based on findings from Phase I, we will examine in-depth the relationship between reproductive health outcomes and population expertise in eight to ten selected developing countries. This more detailed examination is designed to illuminate the role of population experts and their training needs in different countries. IIE will conduct in-depth surveys in each of these countries, gathering primary data on country-specific definitions of human capacity and factors that appear to promote or inhibit the enhancement of human capacity in population/reproductive health.

The Census of Human Capacity in Population is a new program and we invite interested organizations to share their data on population expertise. We plan to widely disseminate the findings of the study to expand the existing base of knowledge and understanding of human capacity in population.