

The Impact of Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Projects: A Synthesis of the Evidence

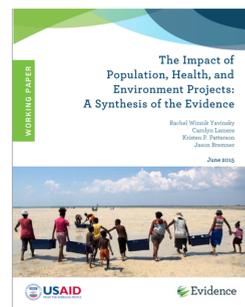
Presented by: Kristin Bietsch, PhD; Smita Gaith, MPH; Kristen P. Patterson, MS, MPH

Authors: Rachel Winnik Yavinsky, Carolyn Lamere, Kristen P. Patterson, Jason Bremner (Population Reference Bureau)

Introduction

Why conduct this synthesis?

- Advocates, donors, policymakers, and others request evidence of impact of PHE
- Evidence often isolated in project reports and not well disseminated



This synthesis documents:

1. What integrated PHE projects are measuring
2. The proven benefits of PHE integration
3. Gaps in the PHE evidence base;
4. Successes and challenges in documenting the impact of PHE projects
5. The rationale for PHE as an effective development approach

Methodology

Objective: Assess and document the available evidence of impact of PHE projects and identify existing gaps

Methodology:

- Analyzed PHE project monitoring and evaluation reports from 2005 to present
- Reviewed 60 PHE project documents; of those, 43 documents from 35 projects were included in the synthesis



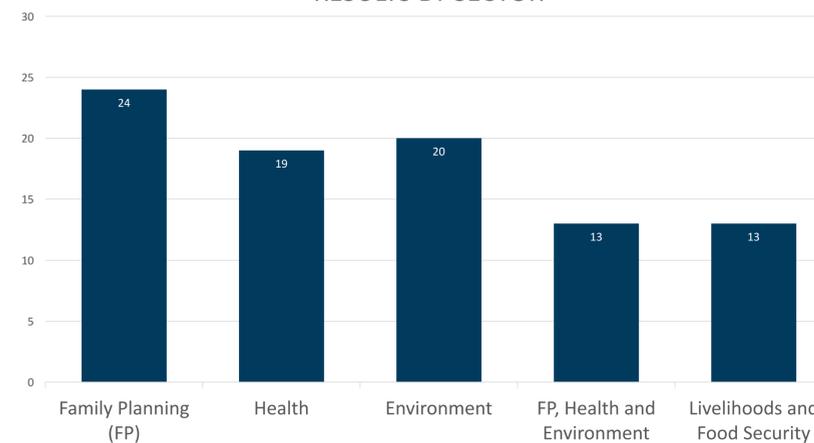
FIGURE 1: LOCATIONS OF PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE SYNTHESIS

Findings

Projects included a range of activities

- About 2/3 of reviewed projects reported some family planning (FP) results
- About 1/3 of reviewed projects reported results in integrated PHE indicators

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT REPORT RESULTS BY SECTOR



Inconsistent documentation of impacts on the environment

- Many projects report changes in environmental behaviors and management
- However, only a few PHE projects were collecting ecological data; great opportunity for improvement

Livelihoods and food security are important aspects of PHE programs

- Improve existing livelihoods and/or introduce alternatives
- However, few projects use standard measurement tools to document these impacts

Population and FP

- Projects consistently documented impact on FP knowledge, attitudes, and use
- Declines in actual “population pressure” were rarely measured and documented

Confirmation of the value-added benefits of PHE integration

- Greater community support for conservation
- Greater male involvement in family planning
- Greater female participation in natural resource management (NRM)
- Increased resonance of FP and NRM with youth
- Time savings and decreased costs for beneficiaries

Moving Forward

- Improve the spectrum of data on activities
- Emphasize data collection from project debut, using appropriate tools and metrics
- Pilot alternative approaches to measuring the added value of PHE
- Capitalize on the opportunity to link PHE with emerging priorities

More Information

KRISTEN P. PATTERSON, MS, MPH: KPATTERSON@PRB.ORG

The Evidence Project is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Evidence Project and Population Reference Bureau and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

