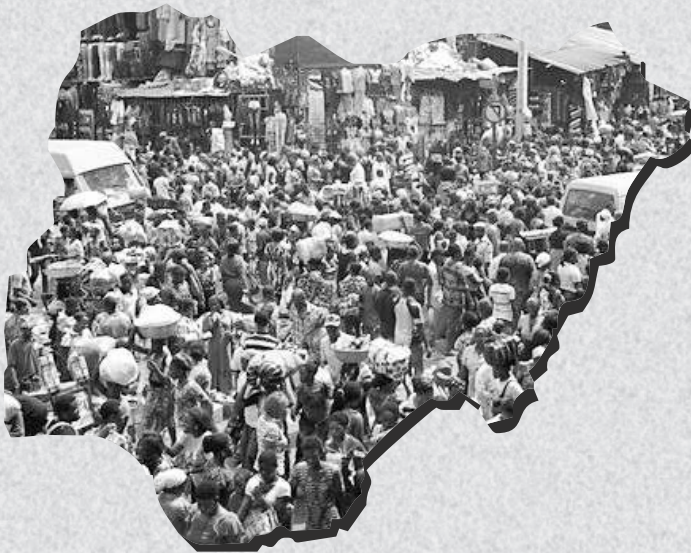




FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



**NATIONAL POLICY ON POPULATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

November 2021

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First Edition

Published November, 2021

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November, 2021

ISBN: 978-978-996-485-7

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FOREWORD

On February 4, 1988, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the first National Policy on Population for Development, Unity, Progress and Self-reliance. The policy sought to integrate population dynamics into national development, taking into consideration the inherent diversities and interests of the people in the country.

The maiden Policy was revised in 2004 because of emerging national, regional and global trends and developments, which included the 1991 National Population Census, 1992 World Conference on Environment, 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, 1995 World Conference on Women and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) launched in 2000 which sought to address issues of extreme poverty, food security and the population-environment-development nexus. In addition, the country was faced with challenges of addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

After sixteen years of implementation, it became necessary to update the 2004 Policy to incorporate emerging issues and align with current development agenda, including: The Agenda 2063 for African Development (adopted in 2013); The 2014 Further Actions on the 1994 Cairo Agenda to address the “Unfinished Agenda” of the Programme of Action (PoA); The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encapsulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015-2030); The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015), Habitat III New Urban Agenda (2016); The New York Declaration on Large Movement of Refugees and Migrants (2016);



The Africa Union (AU) Road Map on Demographic Dividend through investment in Youth (January 2016); The Nigeria Road Map on Demographic Dividend through investment in Youth (July 2017) and the Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017–2020).

In addition, the policy revision was also prompted by prevailing demographic trends, population dynamics and emerging population concerns in the country that require policy action as well as the need to increase national consciousness on the importance of Population Management.

In essence, the goal of the revised National Population Policy is to improve the quality of life and standards of living of the people by promoting maternal, newborn, child, adolescent, reproductive and elderly health plus nutrition and achieve a moderate population growth rate through voluntary fertility regulation and births spacing and empowerment of women and youth. The Policy also seeks to address humanitarian emergencies and other issues that threaten the peace, security and sustainable development of the country.

This revised National Population Policy document is arranged into sections with concise and clear statements on the major priorities and platforms that are necessary for managing and coordinating population programmes to fast track the demographic transition, harness the demographic dividend and achieve sustainable development. The successful implementation of this Policy is dependent on our collective commitment to ensuring that population management issues are prioritized and mainstreamed into all national economic and development plans.



Consistent with the SDGs, this policy emphasizes free, compulsory and quality secondary education to completion level for all Nigerian children as a major priority in eliminating the causes of youth restiveness, reducing incidences of early/forced/child marriage, adolescent/teenage pregnancy and deficit in the nation's human capital.

To realize its goals and objectives, the National Population Policy requires the active involvement and commitment of both the public and private sectors. Through its coordinating role, the National Population Commission will ensure close collaboration, monitoring and cooperation of all concerned for the successful implementation of the population policy.

In line with the aspiration of my Administration to consciously address issues of security, the welfare of every Nigerian, corruption and other vices in order to achieve sustainable development, I am pleased to present the Revised National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development to all Nigerians. It is my hope that this Policy will receive the widest publicity ownership and implementation at all levels of governance as well as the support of the private sector for betterment of the life of the people of Nigeria.

Muhai.

Muhammadu Buhari

25th November 2021

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante Natal Care
AU	African Union
ARV	Anti-Retroviral
BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
BEONC	Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CEMONC	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSM	Cerebrospinal Meningitis
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ECCD	Early Childhood Development Care
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
EMOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FP/CBS	Family Planning/Child Birth Spacing
FML&E	Federal Ministry of Labour & Employment
FMEnv	Federal Ministry of Environment

FMOIC	Federal Ministry of Information and Culture
FMST	Federal Ministry of Science and Technology
FMY& SD	Federal Ministry of Youth& Sports Development
FMWA	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
FMW & H	Federal Ministry of Works and Housing
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEP	Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme
GHS	General Household Survey
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
LGA	Local Government Area
LGAPAC	Local Government Area Population Advisory Committee
LLINs	Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets
MFBNP	Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MHADMSA	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NAN	News Agency of Nigeria
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NAR	Net Attendance Rate
NARHS	National HIV & AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NCDC	National Centre for Disease Control
NCPM	National Council on Population Management
NCRMIDP	National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons
NCRS	National Centre for Remote Sensing
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NEDC	Northeast Development Commission
NEDS	Nigeria Education Data Survey
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NFS	Nigeria Fertility Survey
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme

NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIMS	Nigeria Internal Migration Survey
NISH	National Integrated Survey of Households
NPC	National Population Commission
NPP	National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NSS	National Sentinel Survey
NUC	National Universities Commission
OAGF	Office of the Accountant General of the Federation
OSGF	Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation
OSSAP	Office of the Special Assistant to the President on SDGs
PABHA	People Affected by HIV/AIDS
PAC	Post-Abortion Care
PAG	Population Advisory Group
PHC	Primary Health Care
PHCUOR	PHC Under-One-Roof
P&HC	Population and Housing Census
PINE	Presidential Initiative for the Northeast
PLWD	Persons Living With Disabilities
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
PPP	Public Private Partnership

PTWG	Population Technical Working Group
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SoP	Standards of Practice
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
STPA	State Town Planning Authority
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UBE	Universal Basic Education
UN	United Nations
UNHDI	United Nations Human Development Index
VAPPA	Violence Against Persons Prohibited Act
VVF	Vesico-Vaginal Fistula
VHF	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
WPP	World Population Prospects
WUP	World Urban Prospects

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PREAMBLE

In 1988 the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria adopted a National Policy on Population for Development, Unity, Progress and Self-Reliance. The Policy was designed to improve standard of living and quality of life, promote maternal and child health, achieve a lower rate of population growth and address migration, population distribution and dynamics. Although the implementation of the Policy was limited, it generated discourse on fertility regulation and family planning that paved the way for increased awareness on population issues and the need to integrate population elements into development planning was embraced.

Consequent on the increased awareness, the centrality of the population-development nexus and the importance of population factors in the development of the country gained more attention from Government. Many stakeholders also appreciated the linkage between population factors and broader developmental issues such as housing, education, health, agriculture, employment, energy, environment, gender concerns, food security, migration, safety and security as well as humanitarian emergencies.

In 2004 the 1988 Policy was revised in response to emerging issues such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as well as other national, regional and global aspirations. The 2004 National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development provided an elaborate and in-depth explanation of the population-development paradigm. However, as was the case with the 1988 policy and despite government's recognition and efforts to respond to the new paradigm shift which placed emphasis on quality of life and human development, the implementation of the 2004 Policy was inadequate due to lack of political will, weak coordination and low investment in population management.

In response to new population and development agenda such as the Agenda 2063 for Africa Development (2013), the 2014 Further

Actions on the 1994 Cairo Agenda, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015), the New York Declaration on Large Movement of Refugees and Migrants (2016), Habitat III New Urban Agenda (2016), African Union (AU)/Nigeria Road Map on Demographic Dividend, the Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017-2020), and the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020-2030), as well as the need to accelerate consciousness on Population Management, which is an essential element for achieving Sustainable Development, the Federal Government commenced the review of the 2004 National Population Policy in 2015.

In the main, the revision seeks for the entrenchment of population management at the centre of all development efforts and the harnessing of the demographic dividend to achieve sustainable development. Specifically, the Revised Policy addresses the inter-relationships of population, the environment and socio-economic factors. It also addresses reproductive health and rights, family planning and fertility management, including maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, ageing plus nutrition; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, women empowerment, gender equality, gender-based violence, the girl-child and special population groups, including the elderly and persons living with disabilities as well as people affected by humanitarian crisis and climate change.

The Policy recognizes the importance of data collection and information management and highlights critical coordination and management concerns including a clearly defined institutional framework as crucial elements of effective policy programming and implementation.

The Revised Policy is novel and commendable because it is not just about demographic numbers; but also emphasizes respect for the rights of individuals and couples in shaping the quality of their lives and their wellbeing.

CHAPTER ONE

POPULATION SITUATION IN NIGERIA

A. THE POPULATION PROFILE

The Federal Republic of Nigeria lies on Latitudes 4⁰16' and 13⁰ 53' North and Longitudes 2⁰40' and 14⁰41' East. It occupies approximately 923,768 square kilometers of land stretching from the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic coast in the south to the fringes of the Sahara Desert in the north. The territorial boundaries are defined by the Republics of Niger and Chad in the north, the Republic of Cameroon in the east, and the Republic of Benin in the west.

Nigeria is made up of 36 States and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT), grouped into six geopolitical zones: North Central, North East, North West, South East, South South, and South West. There are 774 constitutionally recognized Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the country. Nigeria is linguistically, culturally and ethnically diverse.

1.1 Sources of Population Data

An accurate and up-to-date population database is a critical tool for good planning and governance. Nigeria is still faced with the major challenge of maintaining up-to-date, accurate and high-quality population database. Major sources of population data in Nigeria include censuses, surveys, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), and administrative records. The last national population census was conducted in 2006, and a post-enumeration survey provided additional data on population characteristics and dynamics. To conform with global practice and standards whereby censuses are

conducted regularly (in most cases every ten years) to provide timely data on population and development characteristics and population dynamics, Nigeria requires appropriate legislation to facilitate the conduct of population census every 10 years.

In the absence of regular censuses, sample surveys have remained veritable sources of population data in the country. Some of the surveys include the Nigeria Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS); the National Sentinel Surveys (NSS); the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS); the General Households Surveys (GHS); Nigeria Education Data Survey (NEDS); Nigeria Internal Migration Survey (NIMS), the Verbal/Social Autopsy Study (VASA), Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) and recently the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

1.2 Population Size and Growth Rate

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and is among the seven most populous countries in the world. According to the 2006 National Population and Housing Census, Nigeria had a population of 140,431,790 persons projected to grow at 3.2 percent per annum. Nigeria's population growth is determined mainly by fertility and mortality. In 2020, the annual growth rate was estimated to have declined to 2.6 percent, although Nigeria is still one of the fastest growing populations in the World, currently estimated at 206 million and is expected to reach over 400 million by 2050 according to United Nations World Population Prospects (WPP), if the prevailing annual growth rate persists.

1.3. Age-Sex Structure

As a result of fertility and mortality trends, there is a preponderance of young persons in the population in which 70 percent of the entire population is under the age of 30. Forty-two percent of Nigerians are currently under the age 15 years, 54.8 percent are between age 15-64 years (which represents the Working Age Population) and 3.1 percent are 65 years and above. Consequently, the nation has a high dependency ratio of 82 dependents to 100 persons in the productive ages of 15 – 64. There is almost a balance in population size between the sexes - about 50.8 percent is male and 49.2 percent is female, giving a sex-ratio of 103. The large proportion of youths in the population (persons age 15-29 years - National Youth Policy 2019) is a potential for harnessing the demographic dividend, and this can be actualized if, and only if, the appropriate actions are taken now to invest in our young population.

1.4. Fertility

Fertility is one of the determinants of population growth. The level of childbearing has been historically high in Nigeria due mainly to early childbearing, low modern contraceptive prevalence rate (currently 12 percent) and low female education. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 5.3 births per woman; it varies between rural and urban areas and across geo-political zones. Thus, while the TFR is 5.9 births per woman in the rural areas, it is 4.5 births per woman in the urban areas (NDHS 2018).

1.5. Morbidity and Mortality

Childhood diseases such as malaria, acute respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and vaccine preventable diseases (measles, tuberculosis,

diphtheria, whooping cough, polio and tetanus) constitute the most common forms of morbidity. Most infant and child deaths occur because of these diseases. Malnourished children and infants are the most vulnerable. Malaria, dysentery, hepatitis and chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes are reported among the major causes of adult morbidity. HIV/AIDS remains an important cause of sickness and death.

Maternal morbidity and mortality are most commonly associated with high-risk pregnancies and births. High-risk pregnancies and births include too early (pregnancies and births to mothers under 18 years); too close (i.e., birth interval of less than two years); too many (more than four previous births); and too late (pregnancies after age 35). The commonest causes of maternal mortality include abortion-related problems, excessive bleeding, anaemia, infections and pregnancy-induced hypertension. Poverty and lack of access to quality health care are major underlying causes of maternal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria.

According to the 2018 NDHS report, Nigeria's Maternal Mortality Ratio (based on WHO definition) is 512 deaths per 100,000 live births. The report also shows that the Infant Mortality Rate is 67 per 1,000 live births; Child Mortality Rate is 64 per 1,000 live births and Under-5 Mortality Rate is 132 per 1,000 live births. Neo-natal and Post neo-natal mortality rates are 38 and 31 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively.

1.6. Population Distribution, Urbanization and Migration

The population of Nigeria is unevenly distributed. About half of the population (51.16) lives in urban areas (NBS 2019). The overall

density in 2006 was about 150 persons per square kilometer. The estimate however masks huge regional variation. Density ranged from 38.1 persons per square kilometer in Taraba State to 2,607 persons per square kilometer in Lagos State.

Migration takes two forms, internal and international. Internal migration includes rural to rural, urban to rural, rural to urban as well as urban to urban. However, rural to urban migration is the most significant. The young and working age populations usually dominate this movement from the countryside to cities in search of employment, social amenities and other opportunities. The resulting rapid growth of the cities has created serious problems of housing, food shortage, sanitation, unemployment, under employment and crime. Although data on international migration is scanty, it appears that this aspect of migration has been dominated by a “brain drain” of talented and well-educated Nigerians to developed countries.

1.7 Population Projection

The National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (NPP) is concerned with what happens to the Nigerian population in the future. The National Population Commission provides a set of high, medium and low variant population projections that suggest a range of possible future population sizes for the country. The projections employed different assumptions about the future course of fertility, mortality and migration in Nigeria. The UN DESA-World Population Prospect (WPP): the 2017 Revised, reports that Nigeria's population in 2030 would be 264,068 million and 410,638,000 million by 2050 respectively.

B. IMPLICATIONS OF THE POPULATION SITUATION

Population is a natural resource; it could however be a constraint to the effort of government to fulfill its commitment to improving the quality of life and standards of living for the people of the country, if its growth rate is not properly managed. In the past two decades, population growth has outstripped the social and economic development of the country. About 68 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line. The United Nations (UN) Human Development Index (HDI) of 2020 ranked Nigeria 158(HDI = 0.534) out of 193 United Nations Member States and Territories. The consequences and implications of rapid population growth should therefore be considered as a priority in the national effort to achieve sustainable development.

1.8 Population Momentum

As a result of prevailing high fertility, Nigeria has a potent momentum for future population growth already built into its age structure. High fertility over a long period of time has resulted in a population with a large concentration of young people. The youthful age structure generates a momentum for growth. This phenomenon has consequences for the future size of the country's population. The implication is that, even if the prevailing high level of fertility should decline in the immediate future to replacement level (i.e., where each couple has only two children to replace itself), the population of the country would still continue to grow for the next 40-50 years, until the disproportionately large number of young people move beyond the reproductive span.

1.9 Population Pressures at Family and Household Levels and Resources Management

High fertility and consequent large family size place pressures on families and households. Having many children makes it difficult for families, especially poor families, to provide adequate nutrition, education, healthcare, shelter, care and support for all family members. The most adverse effect of high fertility at the family level is its impact on the health of mothers and children. Among urban families, high fertility contributes to overcrowding and poor living conditions. Among low-income households with large family sizes, some of whom are engaged in subsistence agriculture, there are high levels of malnutrition. A consequence of large family size and higher population density is increased land fragmentation, which results in lower productivity and makes it difficult for subsistence families to produce sufficient food to cater for many children. The continued high rate of population growth if not effectively managed alongside available resources, will worsen pressures on Nigerian families and households currently and in the future.

1.10 Impact of Rapid Population Growth on National Development

Based on the 2006 Population and Housing Census (PHC), the population growth rate is 3.2 percent annually and if the rate persists, the current population size will double in the next 22 years. The trend suggests that Nigeria would have to double its entire infrastructure, food production, education, water supply, housing, energy, health care and other services just to maintain the current low levels. For living standards to improve, the rate of economic growth and the provision of social services should exceed the rate of population growth. To reduce the rate of population growth, effective population

management programmes should be aggressively pursued and implemented. To this end, the economy must be improved through targeted investment in children and youth to enhance the harnessing of demographic dividend.

1.10.1 Education

The Federal Government of Nigeria has long recognized the importance of quality education and opportunities as being critical to development. Since 1976, the major focus of the education policy has been the provision of free primary education. However, to address the persistent problem of high levels of illiteracy in the country, the Federal Government of Nigeria replaced the Policy of Universal Primary Education with the Universal Basic Education policy, which stipulates a nine-year basic education period for children instead of six years. The 2015 Nigeria Education Data Survey shows a slight increase in Primary School Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) from 63 percent in 2010 to 67 percent in 2015. NAR for Junior Secondary School increased from 33 in 2010 to 40 in 2015. With the continued rapid growth of the population, the number of school-age children in the population will increase phenomenally. This will likely result in a worsening pupil/teacher ratio, overcrowded classrooms, and shortage of educational materials and necessitate greater funding of the education sector.

1.10.2 Health and Nutrition

The Federal Government's priority is to provide one primary health care centre per ward and implementing the PHC-under-One-Roof (PHCUOR) policy to achieve universal health coverage by 2020. These priorities can be achieved through the expansion of Primary

Health Care (PHC), improved services at secondary and tertiary health care delivery levels, implementation of alternative health financing through National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and the integration of traditional medical practice into orthodox health systems. As the population grows rapidly, it will become more and more difficult to provide sufficient personnel, facilities and financial resources to maintain and improve health care services and standards. Also, the rapid increase in the number of children less than age five and women in their childbearing ages, (the groups with the greatest health care needs) will result in increased pressure on the health system. With adequate and improved healthcare services as well as population management, it is possible to achieve significant reductions in child and maternal mortality.

The Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted in 2018 indicates that 37 percent of children under-five years of age are stunted and 19 percent are severely stunted. Seven percent of children are wasted; 23 percent are underweight and 8 percent are severely underweight. Overall, only 11 percent of children aged 6-23 months are fed appropriately based on recommended Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices. The Report also shows that although 98 percent of children are breastfed, only 29 percent of them less than six months of age are breastfed exclusively.

1.10.3 Urbanization

The rate of urbanization in Nigeria is rapid and dynamic. Nigeria's urban population is currently at 51.16 percent of the total population, with estimated growth rate of 4.4 percent per annum. The 2018 revised World Urbanization Prospects (WUP) shows that just three countries – India, China and Nigeria - will account for 35 percent of the

projected world's urban population between 2018 and 2050. By 2050, it is projected that Nigeria will have added 189 million to global urban dwellers. Also, by 2050, 70 percent of Nigeria's population will reside in cities. This trend will lead to the emergence of new urban centres and an increase in the size of the existing cities. At present, most urban residents live in squalor, slums and congested environmental conditions. Poverty is widespread and underemployment and unemployment are high. Many urban inhabitants lack access to adequate and affordable health services, potable water, safe and decent shelter, sanitation, good roads and electricity. Crime rates are high due to inadequate security of life and property. Continued rapid population growth in cities will make it increasingly difficult to provide adequate social services and infrastructure for the urban populace. Beside traditional socio-economic reasons for the rural urban drift, safety and security have become major factors for the rapid increase in urban population growth, compounded by issues IDPs, Refugees and Migrants movements.

1.10.4 Housing

Housing is one of the basic necessities of life and is highlighted in the National Housing Policy. In urban areas, there are severe shortages of housing, overcrowding and the spread of slums and shanty towns. In the rural areas, most houses are poorly constructed, unsafe and do not have basic amenities such as potable water and electricity. The rapid rate of growth of both urban and rural population and inadequate funding have made it extremely difficult to provide sufficient housing to make up for current shortfalls and to provide adequately for the ever-increasing population.

1.10.5 Labour Force and Employment

While our population is the primary asset of the nation, rapid population growth places extraordinary demands on the ability of the economy to provide jobs for all new entrants to the labour force. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the country's estimated labour force strength in 2016 stood at 81.15 million persons. With the high rate of population growth, the number of people in need of employment will rise dramatically each year. Labour Statistics Report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (December 2018), shows that the number of persons in the labour force increased from 85.1 million in the third quarter of 2017 to 90.5 million in the third quarter of 2018. Persons classified as unemployed increased from 17.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 to 20.9 million in the third quarter of 2018. It will be difficult to create enough jobs for such large number of people even with the government policy of job creation through the N-power, Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme (GEEP) and other entrepreneurial programmes.

1.10.6 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capital

After more than a decade of steady progress, economic growth has slowed down because of both external and internal challenges. In 2016, the economy entered into a recession with GDP contracting by 0.36 percent. The growth for 2019 was 2.27 percent. By the 3rd quarter of 2020 GDP growth was -3.62 percent. Inflation which soared from 9.5 percent in December 2015 to 18.5 percent in November 2016 dropped to 14.23 percent by October 2020 (NBS 2020). The human development indicators paint a bleak picture when compared with the current population growth rate of 3.2 per annum (ERGP 2017). It is worthy of note that the standard of living of most Nigerians have continued to decline since the 1990s and has not improved even in the

21st century; rapid population growth therefore makes it difficult for Nigeria to make real gains in raising GDP per-capital.

1.10.7 Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture remains the largest sector of the economy, employing nearly 70 percent of the active labour force. Agriculture provides a means of subsistence for the large and growing population. It also provides raw materials for the agro-industrial sector.

Four sub-activities make up the Agricultural sector: Crop Production, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing. Crop Production remained the major driver of the sector, accounting for 92.93 percent of overall nominal growth of the sector in third quarter 2020. Agriculture contributed 28.41 percent to nominal GDP in the third quarter of 2020. This figure was higher than the rates recorded for the third quarter of 2019 and higher than the second quarter of 2020 which recorded 25.88 percent and 23.92 percent, respectively.

In terms of contribution, the sector contributed 30.77 percent to overall GDP in real terms in Q3 2020, higher than the contribution in the third quarter of 2019 and the second quarter of 2020 which stood at 29.25 percent and 24.65 percent respectively (*NBS - Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report Q3, 2020*).

Nigeria depends highly on food imports. Malnutrition is widespread in the country and rural areas are especially vulnerable to food shortages, unbalanced nutrition, erratic food supply, poor quality food, high cost and even total lack of food in some cases. Food production needs to be increased over the years to improve nutritional standards.

Adverse climate conditions such as drought and flooding, reliance on non-mechanized farming techniques, Internal Displacement of Populations - particularly those whose pre-occupation is farming, prevailing insecurity/incessant threat to life and the increasing population growth hinder prospects of achieving sustainable food security.

Land fragmentation continues as the large numbers of children in each new generation make their claims on the land. This leads to smaller agricultural holdings, continued reliance on traditional techniques and reduced productivity. Additionally, land fragmentation, in some cases results in communal clashes owing to competition from increasingly scarce land resources. In areas adjacent to urban centres, the conversion of arable land to non-agricultural uses further diminishes food production.

1.10.8 Environment including Climate Change

The present high rate of population growth is already contributing substantially to the degradation of the environment. In the urban areas, pollution, accumulation of solid and liquid wastes, complete deforestation of neighbouring woodlands and the rapid spread of shanty towns are all critical problems. In the rural areas, over-cultivation, overgrazing, deforestation and land fragmentation in the face of rapid population growth, have led to serious soil erosion, desertification, and incursion into marginal lands and shelterbelt regions. The overall impact is a continued degradation of the ecosystem. If rapid population growth is not effectively managed, the situation of the environment will further worsen. Climate change, largely caused by increased human activities from mismanagement of the earth, is an adverse environmental phenomenon that is causing

enormous concern globally. If left unchecked, climate change and global warming will cause adverse effects on livelihoods in Nigeria affecting crop production, livestock production, fisheries, forestry and post-harvest activities. Other dimensions of environmental challenges include loss of arable land, urbanization and devastating oil spillage/pollution in the Niger delta region.

1.10.9 Energy Resources

Rapid population growth also adversely affects the nation's energy sector. Nigeria's major sources of energy include fuel wood, charcoal, kerosene, cooking gas, and electricity, with wood being a major source for the rural households and a significant proportion of the urban population. (2006 Population and Housing Census). Currently, there exists a serious imbalance between the demand for wood and the supply in many parts of the country which has led to a rapid destruction of the forests. With rapid population growth, the demand for fuel wood would increase further, thereby leading to greater depletion of forest resources, worsening desertification, and increasing soil degradation. Therefore, there is need to provide rural households and substantial urban households with renewable energy sources that are environmentally friendly.

1.10.10 Public Sector Services

Rapid population growth exerts pressure on several public sector services. For example, data from the 2006 Population and Housing Census show that only about 11.4 percent of regular households have access to pipe-borne water for domestic use inside and/or outside their dwellings. The availability of water for industrial and other uses is also inadequate. While there has been improvement in electricity generation over the years, its distribution does not

complement the generation. Only 37 percent of regular households have electricity as the main source of energy. Communication services have improved in the last decade as more Nigerians have access to telephone lines. Data from the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) as of June 2020 shows that the number of active telephone lines stood at 286, 522, 926 million.

1.10.11 Safety and Security

Safety and security of lives and property are necessary for the progress and development of the nation. Farmers-herders clashes, banditry, insurgency/terrorism, militancy, kidnapping, banditry, cultism, cybercrime, etc., have heightened the level of insecurity and have become an enormous challenge to development efforts in Nigeria. These situations can be ascribed to several factors including the rapid growth/age-structure of the population, poverty, high levels of underemployment and unemployment, youth restiveness, corruption, environmental degradation, injustice, porous borders, small arms proliferation, the breakdown of traditional constraints and squalid living conditions in the rapidly growing cities which is associated with rising crime in the urban areas.

C. SPECIAL POPULATION ISSUES

In addition to the consequences and implications of the population situation, other issues associated with population and development should be considered in the national effort to achieve sustainable development. Some of these issues are discussed in this section.

1.11 HIV/AIDS and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections

Since 1986, when the first case of HIV was reported in Nigeria, HIV/AIDS has remained a major threat to the health status and socio-economic conditions of the nation. According to the Ante Natal Care (ANC) Sentinel Surveys and the Spectrum estimates of 2015, the national HIV prevalence has steadily declined from 4.4 percent in 2005 to 3.0 percent in 2014 and further declined to 1.4 percent in 2019 (NACA, 2019). Nigeria now has the fourth highest burden of HIV/AIDS in the world, constituting 1.9 million people living with HIV in Nigeria out of which more than One-million are accessing ART currently (FMOH). This underscores the magnitude of service gaps and the urgent need to address them. Other sexually transmitted infections (STI's) constitute a silent epidemic and are a serious health problem.

1.12 Other Emerging Infectious Diseases and Pandemics

In recent years, Nigeria's healthcare system has faced great challenges arising from outbreak of new infectious diseases: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (Ebola viral disease, Lassa fever, and Dengue fever) and Cerebrospinal Meningitis Type-C (CSM), with attendant high morbidity and mortality. According to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), within the first week of June 2017 alone, the outbreak of CSM, which commenced about the end of March 2017 involving 25 States in Nigeria, had caused 1,148 deaths. Government response to these situations revealed gaps in the health emergency response systems that need to be addressed.

In December 2019, Nigeria and other countries of the world witnessed the outbreak of a highly contagious Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, CoronaVirus-2 (SARS-CoV2 which the World Health

Organization named Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and subsequently declared it a global Pandemic.

The outbreak of COVID-19 took the world by surprise as no nation, including Nigeria was prepared with any form of response mechanism. The outbreak showed a high-level unpreparedness of the global healthcare delivery systems to deal with the situation and this has taken a huge toll on human, material and financial resources globally. For Nigeria, the impact has been huge across all segments of the society and by 31st October, 2020, the country has reported 62,853 confirmed cases out of which 58,675 patients have been discharged while 1,144 deaths have occurred (NCDC 2020).

Government's response to past disease outbreaks and now COVID-19 Pandemic, has been reactive and has revealed gaps in the health emergency response systems. This needs to be addressed especially in the areas of testing and treatment facilities, supply chain management systems for required supplies, availability of policies and guidelines, individual and community awareness and practice of personal and collective protection measures, among others. Increased knowledge of the disease pattern as well as improved management procedures have led to increasing levels of success recorded in managing disease outbreaks.

The country's disease surveillance systems need to be re-structured to enable early detection of emerging infectious diseases and subsequent roll-out of rapid response measures to curb the spread and avoid disruptions to service delivery across all sectors. Mechanisms for continuous education of the citizenry on personal and community protection practices as well as health seeking behaviours need to be

instituted and sustained over the long run. Molecular Laboratories or other appropriate grade medical laboratories as well as Infectious Disease Hospitals should be established in all 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja to promote early detection and proper management. There should be regular review and update of the existing policies, guidelines and protocols including COVID-19-related to reflect information on existing as well as new/emerging diseases. Government should put in place a policy for actualization of private-sector driven local production of supplies required for effective handling of infectious diseases and the process should promote backward and forward integration in sourcing of inputs. Necessary incentives need to be provided to facilitate the realization of the goal and objectives of the policy and this might include tax holidays, duty waivers, one-off grants by the Federal or State Governments, fast-tracking of land acquisition, donation of government facility for siting of projects, among other incentives.

Finally, Government must continue to invest in health systems strengthening as part of on-going effort at achieving 'Universal Health Coverage' in Nigeria as this will guarantee health security that ensures prevention, early detection and effective and efficient response to disease epidemics and pandemics.

1.13 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

'Reproductive Health' is defined as a state of physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system at all stages of life. 'Reproductive Rights' on the other hand implies that people have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to reproduce. Implicit in these “rights” are men's and women's rights to information and access to safe, effective,

affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice (besides abortion) for regulation of fertility. The 1994 ICPD Paradigm Change recognized women's reproductive rights to include the ability to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children; attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health; and make decisions about their reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence. Reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already enshrined in Nigerian laws, international human rights documents, and other consensus documents to which Nigeria is a signatory. Respect for the reproductive rights of all Nigerians is a cornerstone of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development.

1.14 Women's Status and Empowerment

Nigeria is a patriarchal society; hence the status of women is viewed as being subordinate to men. This erroneous perception has created a huge challenge to women's self-esteem, actualization and aspirations, including empowerment processes. Beginning from childhood, women are made to accept the superiority of men in all aspects of socio-cultural life. The girl-child is neither given equal place in some homes nor is she given the same opportunities for schooling. Girls carry heavier burden with regards to household chores. Girls have less access to education at all levels. Educational and empowerment opportunities are often swapped in preference to the male gender, leaving women highly disadvantaged.

As a result of gender stereotyping, women have disproportionately fewer professional and modern sector positions, less access to credit and economic resources, and lower participation in the political life of

the country. Maternal morbidity and mortality are exceedingly high. Factors responsible for these include lack of decision-making power by women, insufficient knowledge on reproductive health, poverty, denial of reproductive rights, the poor state of reproductive health services, and other social and cultural factors.

Harmful practices against women and girls are common in Nigeria and include – early/child/forced marriage, gender-based violence (GBV), female genital mutilation (FGM), and widowhood rites. In some circumstances, widows can be inherited but cannot inherit property. The incidence of GBV may be subtly encouraged by the culture and societal norms prevalent in our society. The increasing scourge of domestic violence against women in Nigeria continues at an astronomical scale, posing serious physical, mental, psychological and reproductive health challenges to women and girls in Nigeria, despite a plethora of legal and regulatory mechanisms proscribing all forms of violence in the country.

1.15 The Role of Men

In Nigeria, men are generally regarded as the head of households and they dominate sexual and reproductive health decision-making. Men often have greater say in sexual relations, use of family planning methods, access to productive resources, and property inheritance. In addition, certain male sexual behaviours (multiple sexual partners, relations with sex workers, non-use of condoms) can jeopardize women's reproductive health and can contribute to the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Men who deny their sexual partners the use of contraception to space births or prevent unplanned and high-risk pregnancies also contribute to poor reproductive health outcomes among women. To date, male

participation and involvement in reproductive health issues have been low. Until recently, reproductive health programmes have focused mostly on women and children and have failed to adequately target, involve and provide men with appropriate information and services. Culture, religion, and socially sanctioned gender roles pose additional challenges.

1.16 Children and Young People

Nigeria has a young population. The 2006 Population and Housing Census reported that children under the age of 15 years comprised about 41.8 percent of the population. Adolescents (ages 10-19) comprised 22.1 percent of the population, while young people (ages 10-24) accounted for about 31.7 and 63 percent of the total population are under the age of 25 years.

Current estimates (NPC 2019) of the age structure show that 16 percent of the population is under the age of 5 years, 40 percent are below the age of 15 years, youth (age 15-24 years) represent 21 percent; teenagers/adolescents constitute over 23 percent. By 2030, population estimates (WPP 2019) show that the age structure and the representative age groups will remain unchanged except for very slight decline in the population of young people (60.7 percent) and under five (15 percent).

As long as fertility remains high, the age structure will not change very much over a long period of time. The large number of children means that a significant proportion of development resources would be channeled to meeting the education, health, housing, food and protection needs of the young. As a group, children face peculiar problems of child abuse: child labour, high rates of rape, kidnapping,

street children, trafficking, female genital mutilation, neglect, Almajiri abuse, malnutrition, HIV transmission, etc. Consequently, they become persons with special needs, especially the girl-child, declining school enrolment, and high dropout rates for boys in some parts of the country, amongst others.

Young people in Nigeria face several sexual and reproductive health and other developmental challenges including early exposure to sexual intercourse resulting in unplanned pregnancies and abortions, often carried out by untrained practitioners, leading to death. Adolescents (15-19 years) account for 19 percent of all births and contribute to a higher proportion of maternal death. Vesico-vagina fistula (VVF) is a challenging reproductive health issue among young girls in some parts of the country. The rate of HIV/AIDS transmission and other sexually transmitted infections are also high and on the increase among young people. The major factors associated with the poor reproductive health situation of young people in Nigeria include low level of reproductive health knowledge and lack of access to appropriate quality health care services. Early/Child/Forced marriage persists and remains a major contributory factor; one in four women in Nigeria is married by the age of 15 years (NDHS 2018). According to UNICEF 2017 report, 44 percent of girls in Nigeria are married before their 18th birthday, placing Nigeria as 3rd with highest absolute number of child brides in the world – 3,538,000 and the 11th highest prevalence rate globally.

1.17 Older Persons and Population Ageing

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population 60 years will nearly double from 12 percent to 22 percent; that by 2020 the number of

people aged 60 years and older will outnumber children younger than 5 years globally. It is also reported that most of the expected increase in the number of older persons (80%) will be living in low and middle-income countries, although this prospect excludes Nigeria given the prevailing life expectancy rate at 53. 5. Consequently, all countries face major challenges to ensure that their health and social systems are prepared for this demographic shift. **Population Ageing** is an increasing median age in the population of a country due to declining fertility rates and/or rising life expectancy. If Nigeria succeeds in moderating its current fertility level, and attains improved life expectancy, then the process of ageing will be very rapid and overwhelming with less time to adapt to its implications.

According to the 2006 Census, the population of persons 60 years and over constituted 6,987,114. This figure increased to 8,306,241 in 2015, is estimated to reach 8,855,802 by 2020 and 12,211,724 in 2050. Aforetime, the need for old age security was one of the motivations for large family size in the country. However, due to changing family structure toward the nuclear family coupled with declining economy, many children are no longer in a position to provide care and support for their aged parents. Lack of appreciable **Social Security Scheme** that includes **Health Insurance Provisions** for the older persons worsens their situation. The challenges of poverty, irregular and oftentimes non-payment of pensions to the retirees deprive them of their rights and privileges to healthy living. Furthermore, the HIV /AIDS epidemic raises mortality among working adults 'resulting in leaving the older persons with reduced support but additional responsibility of caring for orphans. The policy recommends for specialized policy options, engagements and actions through increased government spending

on pension, healthcare, and social benefits programmes for the older persons and ageing population.

1.18 Persons Living with Disabilities

The 2006 Population and Housing Census showed that about 2.3 percent of the population has some form of disability. Among persons living with disabilities, 45.4 percent have sight problems. Similarly, 14.4 percent, 11.3 percent, 14.4 percent, and 5.9 percent have hearing, speaking, mobility and mental problems in that order. About 8.5 percent have other forms of disability. The prevalence of disabilities is about the same for male and female and for urban and rural residents. Generally, disability levels increase with age. Persons with disabilities have not been able to participate fully in national development and have little or no access to social welfare services and special facilities that could enable them to be productive while adapting to their peculiarities.

1.19 Refugees, Migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness

Nigeria currently has 240,000 international refugees in the country; most of these refugees fled conflicts in other parts of West Africa particularly from Niger, Cameroon and Chad. The country also has a recurrent problem of displaced persons and the Displacement Tracking Matrix Round 32 of June 2020 identified about 2 million IDPs in over 429,442 households across six states of North-East due to insurgency. Fifty-three percent of the displaced persons are females, 47 percent are males; women and children constitute 78 percent, and 27 percent are children under six (6) years, and 7 percent are 60 years and over. The highest unmet need among this special population group

is food (76 percent), making food and nutrition as aspect of concerns for attention. While man-made causes, such as political and social disturbances and communal clashes, displace large numbers of people, natural causes, such as flooding and desertification, also result in the displacement of populations. Added to this is the population of returnees, which is currently about 1.7 million.

Another population group of concern is *Stateless Population*- Birth registration is the process by which a child's birth is recorded in the civil register by the government authority. It provides the first legal identity of the child and non-births registration exposes Nigerian children to lifetime of discrimination. Statelessness arising from lack of birth registration can profoundly affect the ability of children to access education and adequate healthcare, and to fulfill their ambitions and dreams for the future. Preventing and ending childhood statelessness is the best way to stop the spread of the problem. Ensuring that no child is left stateless will lead to better enjoyment of human rights by individuals and improved development outcomes for communities and States. Therefore, in the implementation of this policy, Births Registration will be accorded utmost attention.

1.19.1 Humanitarian Emergency

As a fallout of banditry, insurgency/terrorism, militancy, kidnapping, cybercrime, among others - which have heightened the level of insecurity, humanitarian crises have become more prevalent in Nigeria. The crisis in North-East cuts across the six affected states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba. People in need of urgent assistance in the Northeast rose from 7.9 million at the beginning of 2020 to 10.6 million since the onset of the COVID-19

pandemic, out of which 4.3 million people have become food insecure. This is up from the pre-COVID-19 figure of 3.7 million out of which 5.9 million are targeted to receive aid. Of those in need of assistance, 52 percent are women and girls, 48 percent are men and boys and children constitute 63 per cent. Also, 690,000 are women of reproductive age (15-49 years), 84,292 are pregnant women, and 952,769 are young people (Displacement Tracking Matrix Round 32, June 2020). The crisis has persisted due to flooding and insurgency. The humanitarian crises have led to displacements of persons from their usual places of abode, exacerbated existing gender inequalities, loss of livelihoods, lack of employment opportunities, and susceptibility and vulnerability to HIV, STIs through sexual exploitation, rape and sex work. The main challenges to IDPs are food scarcity, poor shelter and lack of warm clothing, inadequate water supply, poor hygiene practices, lack of access to adequate health care services – particularly sexual and reproductive health care/family planning, and poor sanitary conditions. There is also a potential humanitarian crisis from environmental degradation due to oil and gas, coal and other solid minerals.

1.20 Socio-Cultural Issues

Some cultural norms and practices affect the health of women and children and influence fertility and childbearing practices in Nigeria. Examples include polygyny, son preference, widow inheritance, child marriages, female circumcision, bride price, property inheritance, land tenure practices, gender-based violence, and child labour.

CHAPTER 2

PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles for the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development are derived from the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its “Unfinished Agenda” Beyond twenty-years, and are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs as well as the Africa's Agenda 2063. The guiding principles are in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and are also consistent with the provisions of other existing national policies and plans, such as the National Policy on Women, Poverty Alleviation Policy, National Reproductive Health Policy (2016), the National Health Policy, the National Policy on the Environment and perception on Climate Change, the National Adolescent Health Policy, 2017 National Policy on Family Planning, the National Policy on Education, Nigeria's new Urban Policy, and the Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017 -2020) and Nigeria Road Map on Demographic Dividend (July 6th 2017). The principles are as follows:

Principle 1

The people of Nigeria are the most important and valuable resource of the nation. They are at the centre of concerns for harnessing demographic dividend and achieving sustainable development. All Nigerians are entitled to a healthy and productive life. The Government of Nigeria shall ensure that all individuals are given the opportunity to make the most of their potential. They have their right to an adequate standard of living and improved quality of life for

themselves and their families, in the areas of health, education, food, clothing, housing, water, environmental protection, security of lives and property, and other basic needs.

Principle 2

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all the people, Nigeria shall promote appropriate policies including those related to population and development, to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future. It requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development, be fully recognized, publicized, properly managed and brought into harmonious balance.

Principle 3

Everyone has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. All tiers of government in Nigeria shall take appropriate measures to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, universal access to health care services, including those related to reproductive health care, such as family planning and sexual health. Reproductive health care programmes shall provide wide range of services without any form of coercion or discrimination. All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

Principle 4

The family is the basic unit of the Nigerian society and as such shall be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. Marriage must be entered into with the free and informed consent of the intending spouses at the legally accepted age. As a way of integrating the diversity inherent in Nigeria, intermarriages across ethno-cultural diversities shall be promoted.

Principle 5

Every Nigerian has the right to information and education, which shall be directed to the full development of human resources, dignity and potential with particular attention to women and children. Education shall be designed to strengthen respect for human rights including those relating to population and development. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place, with the parents. The government shall ensure strict compliance to the policy of basic education for all children in Nigeria.

Principle 6

Nigeria shall give the highest possible priority for the well-being of the child. The child has the right to standards of living adequate for his/her well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health, and the right to functional and quality education. The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents, families and society and to be protected by appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures.

Principle 7

Young people are our pride and the future leaders of the nation. Government shall recognize their special needs and make appropriate provision for their growth and development and meaningful participation in national development, including the provisions of an enabling environment for gainful employment.

Principle 8

Government shall pursue issues relating to gender equality before the law, equity and women empowerment, and the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence and all forms of harmful practices.

Principle 9

Government shall recognize the potentials and address the special needs of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, widows, the older persons, refugees, migrants, those caught up in conflict/crisis space or in humanitarian emergency and Internally Displaced Persons in accordance with the principles of the fundamental human rights of all Nigerians.

2.1 Policy Thrust

The Policy Thrust of the Revised National Population Policy is to achieve ***“Sustainable Development”***- anchored on hastening demographic transition that will alter the population age-structure from a child-based population to a youthful population to pave way for Harnessing the demographic dividend. To drive this process, ***emphasis would be focused on*** deliberate and purposeful family planning, well-articulated and targeted health and

related investments in women, adolescents (especially the girl child) and youths, human capital development fostered by equitable quality education that is responsive to the dynamics of labour markets, supported with skills acquisition/entrepreneurship, decent employment, access to quality health care services, peace and security. These investments will accelerate economic growth initiated by a rapid decline in fertility and child mortality that will result in a change in the age structure from dominance by child dependents to one dominated by economically productive and quality working-age adults.

CHAPTER THREE

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

The National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development is designed to facilitate purposeful government actions intended to influence demographic change through institutional arrangements, and specific programmes that contribute to population management. The policy recognizes that population factors, social, economic and environmental issues are irrevocably entwined and are all critical to the achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria.

3.1 Goals

The overall goal of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development is improvement of the quality of life and the standards of living of the people of Nigeria. The specific goals are to:

- 1) Achieve sustainable economic growth, end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, protect and preserve the environment, and provide quality social services.
- 2) Achieve a balance between the rate of population growth and available resources for the social and economic development of the country.
- 3) Achieve a demographic transition to low birth rate and low death rates.
- 4) Achieve a comprehensive and universal sexual and reproductive health of all Nigerians at every stage of the life cycle.
- 5) Eliminate the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and combat viral hepatitis, water-

borne diseases, communicable and non-communicable diseases and respond promptly to all forms of emerging diseases.

- 6) Achieve Universal Health Coverage and Health Security for all Nigeria Citizens- Including Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons.
- 7) Achieve balanced and integrated urban and rural development.
- 8) Achieve Rapid Demographic Transition to enable Harnessing the demographic dividend to achieve sustainable development.
- 9) Provide prompt and efficient humanitarian assistance to all disaster victims.
- 10) Ensure children's right to a name and nationality as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) under Article 7 is achieved.

3.2 Objectives

To achieve these goals, the objectives of the population policy shall be to:

- 1) Promote awareness among the citizens on population and development issues and the effects of rapid population growth on our development aspirations, within the shortest time possible.
- 2) Educate all young people on population matters, sexual relationships, fertility regulation and family planning before entering the ages of marriage and childbearing to assist them towards maintaining responsible family sizes within their ability to foster improved family life.

- 3) Improve awareness and understanding of the interrelationships of population factors and socioeconomic development and the environment, and their mutual importance to the long-term sustainable development of Nigeria.
- 4) Expand access and coverage to improve universal access to quality reproductive and sexual health care services to all.
- 5) To strengthen and expand comprehensive and voluntary family planning, child spacing and fertility management programmes that ensure uninterrupted access to a wide range of modern contraceptive methods as well as adequately be responsive to the needs of infertile and sub-fertile couples.
- 6) Strengthen safe motherhood programmes to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality to enhance the health of women and adolescents.
- 7) Reduce neonatal, infant and child mortality and improve the health and nutritional status of Nigerian children through expanded access to high-quality promotive, preventive and curative health care services.
- 8) Ensure gender issues are integrated into population and development agenda; promote women empowerment and active participation in all aspects of Nigeria's development efforts.
- 9) Enhance male involvement in reproductive health programmes and care.
- 10) Increase the integration of adolescents and young people into development efforts and effectively address their sexual reproductive health and related needs.
- 11) Reduce and eventually eliminate harmful social and cultural practices (early/child/forced marriages) that adversely affect

- the reproductive health of the population through the promotion of behavioral change and appropriate legislation.
- 12) Strengthen existing mechanisms and structures for disease surveillance, prevention and control through the Universal Health Coverage.
 - 13) Promote the integration of persons with special needs, such as the hard-to-reach population, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, stateless persons, nomads, the older persons/ageing population, persons living with disabilities and minority groups into the development process/agenda.
 - 14) Enhance economic, social and environmental links between urban, semi-urban and rural areas by strengthening institutional arrangements on sustainable development through national and state development plans.
 - 15) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education that is responsive to the dynamics of labor markets and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - 16) Accelerate the integration of population dynamics into development plans at national, state and local levels.
 - 17) Significantly increase the availability of high quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by relevant demographic characteristics.
 - 18) Improve systems for operations research, monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of the population policy as well as periodic review of the policy.
 - 19) Support systematic land titling and registration in the country.
 - 20) Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage for the protection of the environment, economic and human development.
 - 21) Expand employment opportunities through skills acquisition and entrepreneurships.

- 22) Entrench good governance, promote the rule of law, strengthen governmental institutions and ensure youth participation.
- 23) Provide legal identity for all the people of Nigeria, beginning with births registration.

3.3 Targets

Targets are useful measurable tools to monitor and evaluate implementation of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development. Targets of the Revised Population Policy are benchmarked by the 17 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government of Nigeria has set a goal of a 2 percent population growth rate by 2030 in its National Economic Policy. The targets for reducing the prevailing total fertility rate and increasing modern contraceptive prevalence rate indicated below are consistent with this goal. The following key targets have been set to guide policy, programming and implementation:

- 1) Achieve a reduction of the national annual population growth rate from the current 2.6 percent to 2.5 in 2025 and 2 percent by year 2030.
- 2) Achieve a reduction in the total fertility rate from the current 5.3 to 4.7 in 2025 and 4.0 by 2030 (i.e., reduction of at least 0.6 children every five years).
- 3) Increase modern contraceptive prevalence rate to 27 percent by 2020 and thereafter achieve at least 2 percentage-points per year till 2030 – achieve a mCPR of 37 percent in 2025 and 47 percent by 2030.
- 4) Increase Immunization coverage for children under 5 from the current 31 percent to 56 percent in 2025 and 80 percent by 2030.

- 5) Reduce neonatal mortality rate from the current 39 to 19 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2025 and 9 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.
- 6) Reduce maternal mortality ratio from the current 512 to 256 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2025 and zero maternal death by 2030.
- 7) Reduce infant mortality rate from the current 67 to 45 per 1,000 live births in 2025 and 35 per 1,000 live births by 2030.
- 8) Reduce child mortality rate from the current 64 to 42 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2025 and 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.
- 9) Reduce the Under-5 mortality rate from the current 132 to 88 per 1,000 live births in 2025 to 40 per 1,000 live births by 2030.
- 10) Increase the Antenatal Care attendance (4 visits) rates from currently 57 percent to 72 percent in 2025 and 87 percent of every pregnant woman per community at the end of 2030.
- 11) Achieve Universal Health Coverage of 38 percent in 2025 and to at least 75 percent by 2030.
- 12) Ensure that at least 70 percent of all girls and boys complete free, compulsory, equitable and quality universal basic and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes in 2025 and 100 percent by 2030.
- 13) Ensure equal access for at least 70 percent of females and males to affordable, quality, technical, vocational and tertiary education in 2025 and for all by 2030.
- 14) Reduce HIV prevalence from 1.4 percent to less than One-percent by 2023, and less than 0.5 percent by 2030.
- 15) Reduce Rural to Urban migration by 5 percent yearly.
- 16) Implement existing land Master plan and develop one where none exists.

- 17) Ensure at least 40 percent of land is properly titled by the end of the first review period (5 years).
- 18) Increase the proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered from the current 30 percent to 55 percent in 2025 and 80 percent by 2030.
- 19) Increase death registration from the current 10 percent to 30 percent in 2025 and 50 percent by 2030.
- 20) Reduce unmet need for family planning from the current 19 percent to 10 percent in 2025 and to zero by 2030.
- 21) Reduce gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls from the current 46 percent to 20 percent in 2025 and to zero by 2030.

CHAPTER FOUR

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The population policy is ultimately about effectively managing Nigeria's growing population, improving the quality of life, harnessing demographic dividend and achieving sustainable development within the dynamics of the global environment. This means that the complex interrelationships between population, resources, the environment (internal and external), social and economic parameters, need to be recognized taking into consideration our national vision. The implementation strategies for the population policy are targeted at population-related issues, including other emerging concerns to achieve sustainable growth and development.

4.1. Health Concerns

A. Sexual and Reproductive Health

The strategies for ensuring high quality sexual and reproductive health services involve creating a supportive environment, broadening the content and range of reproductive and sexual health information and services, creating demand and increasing access and utilization of services. It also includes strengthening community participation by repositioning the Primary Health Care system (as a strong and enduring tool) to provide comprehensive basic health care services to the people at the grass-root; empower communities to access health care services and build Resilient Health Care Systems (RHCS) to respond adequately to health challenges at the community level promptly; and building human resource for health to provide quality services to the people including those living in difficult situations. Enhance research and knowledge management as well as improving accountability among all

stakeholders. These strategies shall be implemented at all levels of the health care system in collaboration with all the relevant sectors with emphasis on an integrated approach to programme planning. These include the following:

- 1) Provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services that are of good quality, equitable, accessible, affordable and appropriate to the needs of all members of the community, including the vulnerable.
- 2) Implement minimum package of health care that includes sexual and reproductive health information and services as a key component of PHC-Under-One-Roof (PHCUOR).
- 3) Strengthen referrals system by integrating reproductive and sexual health information and services into the secondary and tertiary levels of care through appropriate referral mechanisms.
- 4) Eliminate political, legal, socio-economic, cultural, religious, attitudinal and gender-based barriers that limit access to quality reproductive health, counseling, information and services particularly for adolescents and youth.
- 5) Strengthen participation in the provision and management of reproductive and sexual health programmes and services.
- 6) Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the provision of reproductive and sexual health information and services including data management and information system.
- 7) Adapt/develop protocols and guidelines to support high quality sexual and reproductive health services at all levels of health care delivery.
- 8) Promote multi-sectoral approach to reproductive health programming.
- 9) Pre-marital genetic screening and counseling shall be encouraged and provided to address the problems of sickle cell disease and other genetic-related illnesses.

- 10) Domesticate all relevant laws, treaties and policies to ensure the protection of sexual and reproductive rights within acceptable standards and values.
- 11) Regularly create and sustain skills improvement programmes for quality of health care workers for integrated reproductive health service delivery at all levels.
- 12) Strengthen collaboration, partnerships and networking among all relevant stakeholders at all levels.
- 13) Strengthen mechanisms for mobilization of domestic financing and effective use of resources.
- 14) Ensure adequate funding, timely release and judicious use of all resources available for reproductive health.
- 15) Promote basic and operational reproductive health research and use the results to inform policy reforms and performance improvement efforts.
- 16) Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms and integrate quality assurance processes into all sexual and reproductive health programmes and services.
- 17) Implement interventions to meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of persons during humanitarian crisis and post-crisis situations.
- 18) Deploy digital technology channels to advance sexual and reproductive health care services, expand access to family planning and to prevent potential risk

B. Family Planning and Fertility Management

Available evidence suggests that there is a high level of unmet need of 19 percent for family planning in Nigeria and the use of modern contraception is significantly low, currently at 12 percent (NDHS 2018). Activities shall be expanded at all levels to provide availability, choice, and increase utilization of family planning/

childbirth spacing (FP/CBS), including the implementation of the Revised Blue-print on FP and related fertility management services. In this regard,

- 1) Government at all levels shall ensure the availability and accessibility of affordable family planning services to all couples and individuals who voluntarily seek them.
- 2) Family planning services shall include services to sterile and sub-fertile couples as well as to individuals who want to have children.
- 3) Services shall include a variety of family planning methods with consumables to ensure free and informed choices by all couples and persons of reproductive ages who need them.
- 4) Commercial distribution outlets shall be increased to improve access to family planning services to the population in need.
- 5) Government at all levels shall use Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) to promote acceptance and create demand for family planning.
- 6) Government and other stakeholders at all levels shall commit and provide adequate resources to improve planning and management for effective delivery of family planning services.
- 7) Modern Contraceptive supply and logistics management system shall be strengthened to ensure constant availability and prompt delivery of contraceptives and consumables to service delivery points and to provide comprehensive service statistics.
- 8) Community-based family planning activities shall be promoted and participation of faith-based, non-governmental and private organizations shall be encouraged at all levels for information dissemination, demand creation and service delivery.
- 9) Appropriate measures shall also be taken to protect and support responsible parenthood, family life and the institution of marriage.

C. Women's Health and Safe Motherhood

Complications related to pregnancies and childbirth are among the leading causes of morbidity, mortality and health impairment among women of childbearing age. Maternal morbidity and mortality also have serious consequences for family welfare and national development. A concerted effort is needed to promote women's health and ensure safe motherhood in the following ways:

- 1) Promote women's health and safe motherhood through effective antenatal delivery and post-natal care programmes.
- 2) Strengthen health and nutritional programmes to improve the health and nutritional status of women, before and during pregnancy and lactation.
- 3) Ensure expanded availability and access to Basic Emergency and Comprehensive Obstetric and neonatal Care (BEmOC) to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.
- 4) Ensure access to contraceptive security to reduce the incidence of unplanned pregnancies.
- 5) Provide quality and equitable sexual and reproductive health services at all levels and promote effective two-way referral system with adequate logistic support in the rural areas through the Primary Health Care Centres.
- 6) Institutionalize maternal health and death audit in all facilities and at community level.
- 7) Strengthen measures that prevent and manage high-risk pregnancies and births.
- 8) Institutionalize and update appropriate curricula of health and training institutions in emergency/comprehensive obstetric and neonatal care.
- 9) Promote SBCC to discourage unskilled delivery practices and enhance utilization of modern services.

- 10) Make available during humanitarian crises appropriate emergency/comprehensive reproductive, obstetrics and neonatal care.

D. Child Health and Survival

The critical area of focus will be all children under five years of age (newborn, neonate, infant and young child). Child survival is intricately linked to the timing, spacing and number of births and to the reproductive health of mothers as well as social factors, e.g., education and status of the mother. Furthermore, too early (when mother is less than 18 years), too late (when mother is more than 35 years of age), numerous (when mother has had more than four children), and closely spaced pregnancies (less than two years' birth intervals) are major contributors to high infant and child morbidity and mortality. High child mortality contributes to the desire to have more children resulting in high fertility. Childhood diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and preventable diseases are major causes of childhood morbidity and mortality. The strategies include:

- 1) Strengthen Primary Health Care system to encourage exclusive breast-feeding, the provision of adequate nutrition, clean water, basic sanitation, immunization, oral rehydration therapy, and family planning services.
- 2) Access of children to appropriate and quality health care services at all levels shall be expanded.
- 3) Provide information, education and communication about parenting and childcare including the advantages of exclusive breast-feeding.
- 4) Expand access to education for all Nigerian children including Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

- 5) Provide an enabling environment for mothers to breast feed their infants exclusively for the first six months, and to continue breast-feeding with appropriate and adequate complementary food up to and beyond the age of two years.
- 6) Strengthen capacity of health personnel in the management of breast-feeding related problems and integrated management of childhood illnesses and community management of care with a continuum.
- 7) Enforce compliance with the code of marketing of breast milk substitutes and other child feeding supplements.
- 8) Promote and sustain fortification and supplementation of common food items with essential micronutrients for example iodine, iron and vitamin A.
- 9) Reduce the incidence and impact of malaria among children and pregnant women using Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) and other anti-malaria measures.
- 10) Strengthen and reposition routine immunization for all children and pregnant women.
- 11) Provide practical and immediate steps for early detection and appropriate management of genetic disorders and developmental abnormalities in children.
- 12) Enforce timely birth and death registrations and ensure the system is linked to the National Identity Number.

E. HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria is successfully being controlled at 1.4 percent prevalence rate currently, as reported by the Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey, (NAIIS 2019). It is therefore imperative to sustain the present gains through concerted efforts at all levels. To this end, government shall continue to:

- 1) Provide necessary leadership and commitment to implement interventions that will further reduce the spread of the epidemic.
- 2) Strengthen SBCC to address risky sexual behaviours and social-cultural practices associated with HIV transmission.
- 3) Strengthen integrated programmes for HIV Testing Services and early detection and treatment of other sexually transmitted infections.
- 4) Ensure availability of, and accessibility to, female condoms, and promote greater use of male and female condoms through appropriate outlets.
- 5) Strengthen HIV/AIDS control programmes targeting key populations and vulnerable people in humanitarian settings.
- 6) Strengthen integration of HIV/AIDS issues into pre-marital and family counseling.
- 7) Strengthen efforts of government at all levels to encourage public, private and non-governmental organizations and communities to develop supportive, non-discriminatory HIV/AIDS related policies and practices that protect the rights of PLWHA and PABA.
- 8) Implement legislation to protect rights of PLWHA and PABA.
- 9) Enact legislation to make unlawful the deliberate spread of HIV by infected individuals.
- 10) Strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders.
- 11) Strengthen community-based care for PLWHA, PABA and those orphaned by AIDS.
- 12) Strengthen infection control in all settings.
- 13) Promote social security programmes for the vulnerable groups and those in humanitarian settings.
- 14) Promote efforts at building capacity to produce Anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs locally, to fast-track UNAIDS 90-90-90 strategy.

- 15) Strengthen efforts at increasing domestic funding of AIDS response at all levels of government in Nigeria.
- 16) Promote programmes to address poverty, low status of women, youth unemployment and other underlying factors contributing to HIV transmission.

F. Male Reproductive Health

Men are currently underserved and inadequately targeted by reproductive health programmes. This situation deserves to be addressed for several reasons. First, men have unique reproductive health needs of their own. Second, the sexual and reproductive behaviour of men have implications for the health and well-being of their spouses and children. Third, men play a dominant role in decision making about reproduction and sexual matters in the family and community settings. Appropriate reproductive programmes need to be designed to include men for their own benefits and that of other family members and the community as follows:

- 1) Promote appropriate SBCC programmes for men in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, of their spouses and children.
- 2) Create and promote awareness about male reproductive health issues, such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, prostate cancer, impotence, infertility/sterility, and menopause, and their management.
- 3) Strengthen male targeted reproductive health services at workplaces, recreational and health facilities.
- 4) Expand access of men to counseling, preventive and clinical services in sexual and reproductive health.
- 5) Strengthen capacity of health care providers for more responsive male reproductive health services.

G. Emerging Health Issues

Nigeria in recent times, experienced the emergence of diseases like Ebola, Avian flu, and the resurgence of diseases like Lassa fever and meningitis, Hepatitis, the re-surfacing of Polio and currently, the COVID-19 pandemics. These life-threatening epidemics and pandemics buttress the need to strengthen emergency preparedness and response plans at all levels. Hence, there is need to:

- 1) Strengthen surveillance mechanisms and emergency preparedness and response.
- 2) Promote SBCC to create awareness on response to outbreaks and promote preventions.
- 3) Strengthen coordination, research and knowledge management on all emerging diseases.
- 4) Promote efforts at building capacity for the production of vaccines locally to promptly respond to outbreaks.
- 5) Expand efforts at building capacity of health care workers to promptly respond professionally to outbreaks.

H. Non-Communicable Diseases

Cases of non-communicable diseases have been on the rise resulting in high morbidity and mortality. There is, therefore, need to:

- 1) Promote positive health-seeking behaviors to reduce incidences of, and complications from, these diseases.
- 2) Promote SBCC on healthy lifestyles, including nutrition and health-seeking behaviours.
- 3) Promote nutrition education in schools for children, adolescents and young people to adopt healthy feeding habits.
- 4) Monitor and ensure compliance regarding importation of food and additives, medicines and supplies.

- 5) Strengthen quality assurance on all foods and additives.
- 6) Put in place appropriate measures and regulations to enable women combine the role of childbearing and breast-feeding with participation in the labour force.

I. Health of Older Persons and Ageing Population

Increase in the population of the Older Persons is associated with improvement in health. The physical and social changes linked with ageing come with debilitating effects of multiple, acute and chronic diseases. Older Persons are also prone to malnutrition and consequently, there is the need to:

- 1) Position the health care system to provide short term care and long-term care for the older persons including rehabilitation.
- 2) Provide options for, and rewarding volunteering, care and artistic activities for the older persons.
- 3) Provide alternative residential care/hospice for the older persons in most need.
- 4) Ensure regular payment of pensions and gratuities to all qualified retirees.
- 5) Establish Social Security Schemes and Safety-nest to protect the rights of the older persons to social benefits, including health insurance coverage under the national/Community Health Insurance Schemes and the UHC scheme with special attention to those in humanitarian settings.

4.2 Gender Concerns

A. Gender Equality, Equity and Women Empowerment

Gender disparities exist in every sphere of human development in Nigeria. These disparities reveal the generally low status of women

compared with men. Women suffer marked disparities in education, health care and economic opportunities. The power relations that impede women's attainment of healthy and fulfilled lives operate at many levels from the most personal to the highly public. Achieving change requires policy and programme of actions that will improve women's access to education, secured livelihood, economic resources, participation in governance/decision-making and other development opportunities. Full participation and partnership of both men and women is required to achieve gender equity. In this regard:

- 1) Government should establish mechanisms to accelerate women's equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of political process and public life in each community and society enforced by relevant laws.
- 2) Government and other agencies shall ensure that women have full access to credit facilities and other economic resources to ensure full participation in the national economy.
- 3) Government and other agencies shall ensure women have access to full range of contraceptives and encourage private health institutions to key into the system to help couples and individuals make responsible decisions about family size and spacing.
- 4) Efforts to ensure the fulfillment of women's potentials through education and life-long learning, skills development, entrepreneurship and employment shall be promoted.
- 5) Government shall promote free universal girl-child education to completion of secondary school level as a tool for women empowerment.
- 6) Advocate, enact and enforce legislations to eliminate attitudes, all discriminatory and harmful practices against the girls and women, particularly sexual and gender-based

violence.

- 7) Strengthen appropriate measures and regulations to enable women combine the roles of childbearing, breast-feeding and child rearing with participation in the labour force.
- 8) Integrate gender concerns into all developmental policies and programmes.
- 9) Promote the value and development of the girl-child through advocacy and SBCC.
- 10) Government should promote strategies that will enable women to articulate their concerns and needs and also ensure their equal participation in decision-making processes in all spheres.

4.3. Environment and Climate Change

A. Population, Development, Health and Environment Interrelationships

Population, health, socioeconomic development and environment, including climate are pillars of Sustainable Development. Protecting and creating healthy environment is also a critical component of sustainable development. Therefore, it becomes imperative to adopt strategies and actions that foster increased understanding and awareness of the complex interrelationships among them.

- 1). Government, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Development Partners shall develop tools and materials to promote understanding of population-development-environment interrelationships, including the impact of climate change on food security and how it jeopardizes economic growth, environmental stability as well as the social progress of the nation.

- 2) Create awareness through national leadership training programmes on the inter-relationship of population, development, and environment.
- 3) Population education curricula shall be broadened to incorporate related development and environmental issues.
- 4) Population advocacy and information, education and communication programmes shall include key messages about sustainable development interrelationships.
- 5) Population programmes shall promote media partnership to expand understanding about population-development-environment interrelationships and sustainable mitigation strategies.
- 6) Incorporate Population, Health and Environment (PHE), into community-based development approaches to help youths in rural communities to meet their needs.

4.4 Education

A. Population and Family Life Education

The aim of population and family life education is to inculcate a positive attitude and responsible behavior towards improving the quality of lives now and in the future. It is also designed to protect and enhance reproductive health and understanding of how population affects the quality of life of individual, the family, community and the nation. Accordingly, the Nigeria Education Research and Development Council (NERDC) will work towards ensuring that:

- 1) Population and family life education programmes shall be strengthened, expanded and implemented.
- 2) Population and family life education, including education on sexuality, HIV/AIDS and gender relations, shall be

- incorporated into the curricula of all primary, secondary and tertiary institutions bearing in mind cultural sensitivities.
- 3) Population and family life education, including sexuality, HIV/AIDS and gender relations instruction, shall be incorporated into non-formal and vocational training on a continuous basis to assist young people prepare for responsible parenthood.
 - 4) Reproductive and sexual health counseling, including family life and genetic counseling, shall be integrated into the formal and informal education system to reach young people through traditional and social media.
 - 5) Special opportunities for population and family life education shall be created and strengthened for out-of-school youths, especially the girl-child, in vocation and women development centres nationwide.
 - 6) Reproductive health clubs and related organizations shall be encouraged in educational institutions and the society at large through proper funding.
 - 7) The relationship between family life, reproductive health and population-environment in development shall be integrated into mass literacy and adult education programmes.
 - 8) Population and family life education, as well as sexual and reproductive health counseling, shall be made available to persons living with disabilities, persons in humanitarian settings, the hard-to-reach populations and other population groups with special needs nationwide.

B. Basic Education and Literacy

Education and literacy are key factors in efforts to achieve sustainable development. Education is also closely related to demographic and social change, including changes in fertility, mortality, marriage,

mobility and economic activity. Education of girls and women contributes to greater empowerment and opportunities, enhances delay in early marriage and achievement of smaller family size. To realize these:

- 1) Access to basic education shall be expanded to increase enrollment, retention and completion, and eliminate gender disparities through full implementation of the Universal Basic Education Scheme.
- 2) Increased attention shall be paid to the curricula and quality of education at all levels to enhance the acquisition of relevant knowledge and skills for development of the individual and nation.
- 3) Investments in education, literacy, and job training shall be prioritized in development budgets at all levels.
- 4) Government shall ensure that educational institutions have relevant infrastructure, adequate modern equipment, trained staff, and facilities to ensure quality instructions.
- 5) Non-formal education and skill development programmes including entrepreneurship for out-of-school youths and adults shall be promoted.
- 6) Efforts to eliminate illiteracy shall be intensified through improved and expanded mass literacy, adult and non-formal education programmes.
- 7) The content of educational curricula at all levels shall be dynamic and improved to promote greater awareness of the interrelationships of population, reproductive health, family planning, gender concerns and the achievement of the demographic dividend and sustainable development.

4.5 Communication

A. Social Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC)

Poor health practices and inappropriate health-seeking behaviors are factors underlying low reproductive health status in Nigeria. To address this situation, SBCC will constitute a key component of the population and development programme:

- 1) Appropriate culture and gender-sensitive information, education, communication (IEC) and counseling materials in support of sexual and reproductive health shall be developed, produced and widely distributed.
- 2) A national SBCC strategy, plan and programme shall be developed and implemented with active participation of communities.
- 3) The scope, content and coverage of population and development and reproductive health messages, including HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Zika, Lassa Fever, the current COVID-19 pandemic, and other newly discovered diseases shall be increased using appropriate channels of communication at all levels, particularly at the community levels.
- 4) Institutional capacity of government at Federal, State and LGA levels, civil society organizations, and the private sector shall be strengthened to undertake SBCC programme.
- 5) Training and retraining of skilled personnel for SBCC shall be promoted to meet global best practices.
- 6) SBCC research in the field of population and development, sexual and reproductive health shall be encouraged and supported.

B. Advocacy and Leadership Commitment

Political will and commitment are critical ingredients for the successful implementation of the Population Policy. Leaders at every level of Nigerian society need to promote the policy and support its effective implementation through appropriate declarations and allocation of adequate resources. Advocacy as a strategy to promote awareness, gain commitment, and sustain support among leadership groups will be required. To this end:

- 1) Advocacy strategies shall be developed to help leaders understand the importance of sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights, family planning, gender concerns and population-social-environment-development interrelationships to national development.
- 2) Information on population and sustainable development shall be made available in appropriate and understandable formats to government, leaders at all levels, and to NGOs, Communities, religious and traditional leaders, Unions and other stakeholders.
- 3) The content of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development shall be widely disseminated to create public understanding, mobilize public opinion and build leadership support for effective implementation of population and development programmes.
- 4) Advocacy efforts shall be targeted at political leaders, especially State Governors, to ensure that sufficient resources are committed to and released timely for population and development and reproductive health programmes.
- 5) Advocacy efforts shall be targeted at members of the Legislature at all levels to encourage them to enact appropriate legislations for achievement of the goals and objectives of the population policy.

- 6) Advocacy strategies shall be developed to convince policy makers to remove institutional, legal and other barriers that hinder women, adolescents, youths and people with special needs from becoming partners in decision making and development.
- 7) Training in advocacy skills and approaches as well as development of advocacy networks shall be promoted.

4.6 Population Dynamics

A. Fertility and Mortality

Fertility and mortality are key determinants of population stabilization in the context of sustainable development. The increasing size of the population over the last two decades is largely due to high fertility rates. Also, high rates of maternal, infant, child and under-five mortality have remained issues of concern in the country. To address the above, government shall adopt measures to promote child spacing and child survival, education and awareness creations initiatives.

B. Population Distribution, Urbanization and Migration

Population distribution, urbanization and migration issues and achievement of balanced urban-rural development are important in the context of sustainable development. The rate of urbanization is high as a result of high rural to urban migration. Globally, Nigeria is the third contributor to urban increase at 211 million between 2014 and 2050 (WPP 2019), and urbanization in Nigeria is currently 51 percent (NBS 2019). Rapid urban increase leads to overcrowding, social instability, spread of infectious diseases, poor environmental conditions, and increased pressure on social and health infrastructure

in urban centres. If left unmanaged, migration, including issues of displacement such as internally displaced persons, refugees, migrants and brain drain, can affect the population adversely. To address issues of migration and rapid urbanization:

- 1) A comprehensive urbanization policy which aligns with the New UN-Habitat III and the provisions of SDG Eleven, shall be developed and integrated into the overall development plan aimed among other things, to reduce the existing high rate of migration to large urban centres.
- 2) Develop and strengthen micro, small and medium-scale enterprises and Agro firms that are agro-allied to expand rural economies.
- 3) Infrastructure and social amenities shall be provided, renovated, strengthened and expanded in the rural areas to improve living conditions and enhance economic growth and development.
- 4) Measures shall be taken to improve social services and infrastructure in urban centres, with particular focus on slum areas and shanty towns, to enhance quality of life.
- 5) Rebuild and strengthen regional industries that have comparative advantage.
- 6) Special and appropriate measures shall be taken to regulate and assist international migrants, refugees and IDPs to protect their rights and safeguard their lives and properties, including reconstruction of regions affected by internal displacement.
- 7) Government shall adopt measures and promote incentive schemes that will facilitate the voluntary return of highly skilled emigrants and promote their eventual integration into the national economy.
- 8) Encourage patronage of made in Nigeria goods.

- 9) Create an effective framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of implementation of adopted innovative strategies.

B. Population Groups with Special Needs

I. Nomads and Migrant Fishermen

Nomads and migrant fishermen are a population group with special needs. The constant movement of these groups has implications for their health, education and general development. Government has established a programme of education specially targeted at this group to integrate them into national development. However, educational enrolments among this group remain low. Therefore:

- 1) Primary and adult education programmes for nomads and migrant fishermen shall be expanded, and curricula made compatible with their aspirations and lifestyles.
- 2) Government shall ensure adequate budgetary allocation and timely release of funds for education and other development programmes for the nomads and migrant fishermen.
- 3) Strengthen the SBCC programmes targeted to promote Nomadic education and for migrant fishermen.
- 4) Provision of social infrastructure targeted at nomads and migrant fishermen.
- 5) Ensure that nomads and migrant fishermen have access to good quality sexual and reproductive health care services.

II. Older Persons and Population Ageing

The older persons in Nigeria, ages 60 years and above, currently constitute 8,885,802 million of the population, which will reach 12,211,724 million by 2030, and this number is likely to increase in the future with improvement in life expectancy (NPC 2020). The care of Older Persons requires greater attention.

To provide adequately for the ageing population, there is need to:

- 1) Develop policy and strategic framework for the improvement of the health, economic and social life of older persons.
- 2) Ensure the implementation of social security and related support system geared towards the older persons.
- 3) Increase awareness about the needs of the older persons.
- 4) Create awareness on the value of healthy ageing and to sustain commitment and actions to implement evidence-based policies and strategic framework for the improvement of the health, economic and social life of the older persons.
- 5) Conduct specialized training for care givers for the management of the older persons.
- 6) Develop and encourage the study of Gerontology in the tertiary institutions.
- 7) Create age-friendly environment to foster wellbeing of the older persons

III. Persons Living with Disabilities

Persons living with disabilities have fundamental rights that need to be protected by the society, and appropriately integrated into national development processes. Hence there is need to:

- 1) Develop appropriate strategies to integrate persons living with disabilities into national development plans and programmes.
- 2) Enact appropriate policies and to protect the right of persons living with disabilities.
- 3) Create awareness on the needs of persons living with disabilities, their families and identify community responsibilities, as well as their sexual and reproductive health needs.

- 4) Community-based personnel shall be trained to meet the special needs of persons living with disabilities including sexual and reproductive health needs.
- 5) Ensure provision of disabled-compliant facilities in public places.

IV. Refugees, Migrants, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons

The rise in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Migrants and Refugees have become issues of concern for the government. Government initiatives in this direction include the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRMIDPs) now Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disasters Management and Social Development. In this regard the following strategies shall be pursued:

- 1) Strengthen sectoral policies and programmes to respond to the sexual and reproductive health needs and safeguard the reproductive rights of displaced persons.
- 2) IEC and SBCC programmes shall be established to promote dialogue and a culture of non-violence in conflict resolution.
- 3) Develop appropriate measures to restore and reintegrate migrants, refugees and displaced persons into national development.
- 4) Strengthen the Births Registration system to ensure every live birth that occurs among these population groups is promptly registered.
- 5) Ensure availability of sufficient nutritional food for these population groups.

4.7 Youth and Adolescents

A. Adolescents and Young People

Adolescents and young people face many sexual and reproductive health challenges, including teenage pregnancies, abortions, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against the girl-child – early/child/forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), among others. Other issues such as social and mental maladjustment, drug abuse, accidents, education, career and employment, compounded their sexual and reproductive problems. The fertility behavior of adolescent and young people will also be critical to future population growth. For these reasons, the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people, including issues of drug abuse should be addressed as part of a comprehensive population programme.

Accordingly:

- 1) Healthy reproductive and responsible sexual behaviour, including sexual abstinence, among adolescents shall be encouraged to reduce the incidence of high rate of teenage pregnancies, abortions, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.
- 2) Sexuality education, including life skills, gender relations, information on consequences of unprotected sex and adolescent pregnancies, transmission of HIV and other STIs, shall be provided in formal and informal settings to all young people.
- 3) Access of young people to appropriate youth-friendly, culturally acceptable health and counseling services to effectively address the sexual and reproductive health needs shall be expanded.

- 4) Laws establishing minimum legal age for marriage at 18 years for females shall be enacted and enforced.
- 5) Programmes targeted at preventing substance abuse, sexual and physical abuse, suicide and accidental injuries among young people shall be strengthened and expanded.
- 6) Comprehensive youth development programmes including education, skill acquisition, entrepreneurship, vocational guidance and training, sports and recreational facilities, and appropriate legal support shall be developed and implemented.
- 7) Opportunities shall be provided for the involvement and full participation of young people in social life and developmental activities of their communities.
- 8) Appropriate programmes shall be developed and implemented for young people with special needs, such as those in conditions of extreme poverty, homelessness, unemployment and those with physical or mental disabilities, to integrate them into national development processes.
- 9) Training of skilled counselors on sexual health and sexuality education including the establishment of a unit under PHC to address youth and adolescents-related sexual and reproductive issues.
- 10) Programmes that address parenting and parent-child communication shall be strengthened and expanded to support the health and development of young persons.
- 11) Promote re-integration of adolescent mothers into the formal school system
- 12) Advocacy efforts shall be strengthened to secure and sustain the commitment of government, community leaders, parents, schoolteachers and other stakeholders to support reproductive health and development of young people.

- 13) Accord special attention to the needs of young people in difficult situations and humanitarian setting, particularly their sexual and reproductive health needs.

4.8 Social-Cultural Barriers and Legal Support

Certain cultural practices and customs in Nigeria violate reproductive rights and are harmful to the reproductive health of individuals, especially girls and women. These include: early child and forced marriages, female genital mutilation, widowhood rites and gender-based-violence. Therefore, there is need to:

- 1) Enforce appropriate legislation to eliminate all forms of harmful practices including early/child/forced marriage and all forms of violence against women, among others.
- 2) Enact, enforce and promote legislation that protects the family and the institution of marriage.
- 3) Couples shall be required by law to acknowledge and register their marriages with the National Population Commission.
- 4) Review, revise and enforce appropriate legislation to protect under-age females from sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking in persons.
- 5) Promulgate appropriate legislation to ensure that men provide parental support for any child (ren) they father.
- 6) Intensification of SBCC programmes to address issues of Child marriage and other harmful practices at all levels.
- 7) Ensure the protection of the inheritance rights of spouses and children.
- 8) Strengthen and intensify advocacy efforts targeted at leaders at all levels to facilitate the elimination of all forms of harmful practices and the removal of cultural barriers to good reproductive health practices.

- 9) Domesticate, implement and enforce the Child Rights Act and Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act (e.g., infanticide) in all the States.

4.9 Population and Development Planning

A. Integration of Population, Health and Environment Variables into Development Planning

Population dynamics affect planning and programmes in all social, economic, environment and development sectors. It is, therefore, essential that population dynamics be integrated consistently into socio-economic development planning to speed up the demographic transition and harnessing the demographic dividend and sustainable development. Hence, there is need to:

- 1) Integrate population dynamics into all aspects of development planning (short-term, mid-term and long-term perspective plans) at all levels of government.
- 2) Target planning priorities towards population dynamics at all levels of government.
- 3) Develop and implement advocacy programmes to achieve strengthened and sustained political commitment, allocation and release of adequate resources to enhance integrating population variables into development planning.

B. Integrate Sexual and Reproductive Health Concerns into Sectoral Programmes and Activities

Population Management and sexual reproductive health programmes require inter-sectoral collaboration. Consequently, there is need to:

- 1) Entrench sexual and reproductive health information and services, including HIV/AIDS, and other STIs into sectoral programmes at all levels.
- 2) Designate and train desk officers in relevant MDAs on population and development issues.
- 3) Develop appropriate framework and strategy for inter-sectoral collaboration.
- 4) Undertake regular consultative inter-sectoral networking to ensure effective programme implementation.

4.10 Population Statistics

A. Data Collection and Analysis

Population and Housing Census, sample household surveys, civil registration and vital statistics, and other statistical exercises provide data that are essential for planning and management of the population programmes for socio economic development as well as for the implementation of this policy. Efforts shall be intensified to achieve the conduct of decennial censuses and generate reliable, timely, and well disaggregated population and health data. Therefore, there is need to:

- 1) Conduct national population and housing census decennially and also conduct surveys at regular intervals in compliance with international standards.
- 2) Enforce compliance on legislation and regulations covering Civil Registration of births, deaths and marriages and Vital Statistics.
- 3) Process, analyze, and disseminate census and survey data for socio-economic development planning timeously.
- 4) Continually generate gender-disaggregated statistical data from all sectors for the purpose of planning and programme implementation at the three tiers of government.

- 5) Establish community of practice platforms for population data producers and users.
- 6) Intensify capacity building on the use of demographic and health data for development planning.
- 7) Increase advocacy on the demand and use of data bank information.
- 8) Develop a data bank for international migration.

B. Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

Monitoring and Evaluation are critical to the assessment of implementation and impact of the policy strategic plan. They provide basis for assessing the progress of sectoral programme implementation and the effectiveness of activities and strategies. Research is invaluable in understanding information/data on relevant indicators that can be used to measure impact of programme and improve design. In this regard, the following strategies would be pursued vigorously during the implementation of the policy:

- 1) Development of Monitoring and Evaluation framework into every population activity and programme to help determine the effectiveness of policy implementation and impact.
- 2) Relevant Ministries Departments Agencies shall provide population and development related indicators that can be used to periodically assess the implementation of population programmes and their impact.
- 3) Research shall be encouraged in support of population policy implementation.
- 4) Relevant agencies, Civil Society Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations and national experts on population and development should collaborate to develop framework to monitor and evaluate population policy and its implementation and impact as well as progress towards achievement of demographic dividend.

CHAPTER FIVE

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the National Population Policy is a complex, multi-sectoral activity. All tiers and relevant agencies of government, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, the media and communities shall be actively involved in its implementation. An appropriate institutional framework is required to harness the activities of all sectors and to facilitate close interaction and cooperation for the achievement of population policy goals. To achieve the objectives of the policy, there shall be a distinct institutional arrangement for coordination on one hand, and implementation on the other.

5.1 The National Council On Population Management (NCPM)

This shall be the highest policy making body for the implementation of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development. The Council shall be presided over by the President and shall convene bi-annually and/or when deemed necessary. Membership of the NCPM shall consist of:

The President, Federal Republic of Nigeria - Chairman
Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nigeria - Deputy Chairman

Members:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning
- Minister of Health

- Minister of Education
- Minister of Information and Culture
- Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development
- Minister of Labour and Employment
- Minister of Environment
- Minister of Power
- Minister of Works and Housing
- Minister of Communication and Digital Economy
- Minister of Youth and Sports Development
- Minister of Interior
- Attorney-General of the Federation & Minister of Justice
- Minister of Women Affairs
- Minister of Science & Technology
- Minister of Mines and Steel Development
- Minister of Transport
- Minister of Humanitarian, Disaster Management and Social Development
- National Security Adviser
- Senate President
- Speaker House of Representatives
- Statistician General of the Federation – (National Bureau of Statistics)
- Chairman, Nigeria Governors Forum
- Secretary to the Government of the Federation
- Head of the Civil Service of the Federation
- Chairman, National Population Commission
- Surveyor General of the Federation
- Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals

- Chief of Army Staff
- Inspector General of Police

5.1.1 Mandate of the NCPM

The National Council on Population Management (NCPM) shall:

- i. Oversee the overall implementation of the National Population Policy.
- ii. Approve the Strategic Plan for National Population Policy implementation.
- iii. Facilitate mobilization of domestic resources in addition to donor resources and promote international partnership in population and development issues.
- iv. Provide the highest political commitment towards integrating population management as a key component of the National Development Strategy.
- v. Commit sufficient resources and funds for the Population Policy implementation.
- vi. Review progress reports on the implementation of the Policy and report to the Federal Executive Council and the nation.
- vii. Promote and approve legislative processes that support national population and development issues and Act of Parliament on decennial conduct of Censuses.

5.2 Population And Development Coordination

The National Population Commission as the statutory body responsible for the coordination of Population and Development activities nation-wide, shall coordinate the multi-sectoral

implementation of the programmes. To achieve this task, the Commission shall be advised and supported by two Committees, namely Population Advisory Group and Population Technical Working Group. These two groups are desirable to ensure full participation of key stakeholders in the coordination process.

5.2.1 The Population Advisory Group (PAG)

The Population Advisory Group shall consist of representatives of civil society, traditional and religious leaders and other eminent citizens in the field of population and development. All the members shall be selected by the Commission. Membership of the Group shall not exceed 15 persons taking cognizance of the 6 geopolitical zones. The Group is to meet bi-annually under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the National Population Commission.

The PAG shall be constituted at the Federal and State levels. Representation at these levels shall reflect geographic distribution, gender and other social interests.

The mandate of the Population Advisory Group (PAG) shall be as follows:

- i) Review policy coordination reports and recommend effective coordination mechanism.
- ii) Review and recommend the Strategic Plan to the NCPM for approval for policy implementation.
- iii) Advise the National Population Commission on means of mobilizing internal and external resources to support coordination and implementation of the policy and its programmes.

- iv) Review policy coordination reports periodically and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the NCPM.

5.2.2 Population Technical Working Group (PTWG)

The Population Technical Working Group shall consist of representatives of all implementing sectoral ministries and agencies including relevant research institutions. Representatives from implementing ministries and agencies shall be of the level of Director. The body shall meet quarterly to carry out its mandate and shall be chaired by the Director-General of the National Population Commission at the national level. The Group shall be replicated at the State and Local Government levels. The mandate of PTWG shall be as follows:

- 1) Provide direction and guidance on operational strategies and targets for programmes implementation at Federal, State and LGA levels.
- 2) Hold inter-sectoral coordination meetings among programme implementing Ministries, Departments and Agencies including relevant research institutions.
- 3) Ensure inter-sectoral cooperation of programme implementing ministries, department and agencies of government and full participation of Development Partners, The Media, Civil Society Organizations and the private sector in the process of policy implementation.
- 4) Review policy coordination reports and recommend effective coordination mechanism to the PAG.

- 5) Interpret, review quarterly and recommend appropriate changes in the population policy of the country and advise the Commission accordingly.
- 6) Advocate for the inclusion of emerging issues that affect population dynamics in the policy document.
- 7) Participate in the dissemination of the policy and implementation plan at all levels.
- 8) Function in other ways that would promote effective coordination of the population programme.

The Federal, State and LGA PTWG shall meet periodically as determined by the National Population Commission.

5.2.3 Coordination Role of the National Population Commission on PAG and PTWG

While the PAG and PTWG provide advisory roles, the National Population Commission shall:

- 1) Build human resource base on population and development.
- 2) Carry out the overall coordination of the policy, programmes and activities throughout the country.
- 3) Facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Policy and integration with other supporting programmes.
- 4) Foster linkages and harmonize activities at Federal, State and LGA levels. To achieve these, the Commission shall build appropriate human capital in population management, coordination and development field.

5.3 Specific Roles Of The National Population Commission At The Different Levels

5.3.1 Federal Level

- 1) Recommend strategies for policy implementation to the NCPM.
- 2) Advise the NCPM on prevailing and emerging Population and Development issues and prompt sit on the need for policy revision.
- 3) Prepare and submit annual reports on policy implementation to the NCPM.
- 4) Provide technical and administrative support to both PAG and PTWG.
- 5) Maintain liaison with relevant agencies of Federal, State and Local Government, the private sector, donors/development partners, The Media, CSOs, FBOs, and non-governmental organizations involved in population and development activities to ensure adequate coordination, integration and harmonization of population and development policies and programmes.
- 6) Work closely with relevant agencies to coordinate domestic funds and other levels of external assistance for population and development activities.
- 7) Provide technical assistance for policy and programme implementation at Federal, State and LGA levels.
- 8) Establish a national programme for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the population policy and related

programmes, including monitoring progress towards achieving demographic transition and demographic dividend.

- 9) Identify and develop strategies for providing the human resources needed for successful policy implementation.
- 10) Serve as a national resource centre on population and development issues and provide information and background materials to relevant agencies.
- 11) Monitor the flow of materials needed for the effective management of programmes, and review the functioning of supply, logistics and inventory systems.
- 12) Undertake or commission, when necessary, behavioural and policy-oriented studies and preparation of relevant technical materials and documents.
- 13) Work closely with relevant agencies to integrate population dynamics into development planning.
- 14) Work closely with relevant agencies to develop a robust data base essential for policy monitoring and evaluation.
- 15) Function in other ways that would promote effective implementation of the population policy.
- 16) Carry out other functions as assigned to foster successful implementation of the population policy.

5.3.2 State Level

- 1) Establish the Population Advisory Group (PAG) and the Population Technical Working Group (PTWG) at the state level.

- 2) Provide technical and administrative support to both PAG and PTWG.
- 3) Through the States, provide local governments with technical support for policy and programme implementation.
- 4) Carry out other functions as may be necessary to support implementation of the policy at State level.
- 5) Ensure inter-sectoral collaboration with relevant institutions for population programme performance.
- 6) Co-ordinate, monitor, evaluate and promote implementation of population policy programmes and activities in the states, including state-level progress on demographic transition and demographic dividend.
- 7) Mobilize resources to support the implementation and monitoring of population and development activities.
- 8) Promote collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector groups engaged in population and development programmes and activities in the States.
- 9) Work closely with relevant agencies to integrate population dynamics/variables in state development planning.
- 10) Submit quarterly progress report to the NPC Headquarters on the implementation of population programmes and activities.
- 11) Work closely with federal agencies with a mandate for statistical and data collection to develop population data base and guidelines and indicators essential to policy and programme monitoring and evaluation.

- 12) Engage State Governors on the implementation of the Population Policy and the Strategic Plan through the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) platform.

5.3.3 Local Government Level

- 1) Coordinate, monitor, evaluate and promote implementation of population policy programmes and activities through the States at the LGA.
- 2) Promote collaboration among departments and NGOs engaged in population and development activities in the LGA.
- 3) Work closely with States' Economic Planning and other relevant departments to ensure integration of population variables/dynamics in LG development planning.
- 4) Lead and facilitate the formulation and review, annually, of local government population plans of action.
- 5) Assist the Local Government Planning Unit to prepare annual work plan for population programmes.
- 6) Arrange appropriate assistance and funding to Local Governments in the area of CRVS and NERDC of the Ministry of Education in the area of curriculum development and support for population education.
- 7) Advise the Local Government Executive Council on means of mobilizing resources to support implementation of specific population activities.
- 8) Organize and carry out activities that would promote population policy implementation in the LGA.

- 9) Promote collaboration among NGOs engaged in the field of population policy implementation in the LGA.
- 10) Maintain and strengthen, in collaboration with federal statistical agencies based in the state and local government, LGA robust population data bank.
- 11) Report to the Local Government Executive Council progress in the implementation of specific population activities.
- 12) Carry out any other functions that would be assigned to it by the States' PTWG towards the successful implementation of population and development programmes and activities in the LGA.

5.4 Implementing Roles Of Government And Non-governmental Organizations

The National Population Commission shall coordinate the implementation of the population policy and programmes, while the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies at the three tiers of government will implement the programmes and activities relevant to their respective mandates. Whereas the following paragraphs deal essentially with the institutions at the federal level, it is recognized that the institutions with equivalent responsibilities at State and LGA levels will undertake similar activities.

5.4.1 Office of the President

- 1) Appoint and/or approve the appointment of members of the National Population Commission as provided for in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- 2) Provide support including financial resources for successful implementation of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development.
- 3) Encourage traditional institutions, including community, religious and opinion leaders to act as agents of change.
- 4) Direct the process of integration of population and development concerns into development planning.
- 5) Oversee the implementation of the national HIV/AIDS Response.
- 6) Oversee the implementation of poverty eradication programmes.
- 7) Process and present initiated relevant Bills of the National Population Commission to the National Assembly for enactment into laws.
- 8) Ensure appropriate and adequate budgetary allocations for population and development programmes.

5.4.2 National Assembly

- 1) Support the implementation of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development.
- 2) Make appropriate legislations in support of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, reproductive health including family planning/child spacing and other population and development activities.
- 3) Ensure adequate and timely financial appropriation for population related activities.

- 4) Support legislative processes and facilitate the enactment of an Act of Parliament for the conduct of census every 10 years.

5.4.3 Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning

- 1) Ensure sufficient budgetary allocations for population and development activities.
- 2) Take responsibility to mobilize all resources coming in from outside in respect of population matters and allocate to relevant population and development activities in that sector appropriately
- 3) Ensure sufficient budgetary allocation and timely release of funds for family planning commodities and consumables
- 4) Ensure integration of population dynamics /variables into development planning in all sectors.
- 5) Promote and extend technical assistance to sectoral agencies in the integration of population variables into the development planning processes.
- 6) Develop guidelines for the incorporation of population/ demographic variables at both micro and macro planning levels.
- 7) Coordinate international co-operation and support of population and development activities.
- 8) Promote South-South Cooperation in collaboration with Partners in Population and Development (PPD) to support implementation of population and development programmes.

- 9) Integrate population data into the national data bank.
- 10) Coordinate the activities of donors and development partners to avoid duplication of support.
- 11) Ensure timely release of approved budget to the Commission and different MDAs for population and development activities.
- 12) Support the establishment of specific budget lines for population and development and related activities for the Commission and different line ministries and other government agencies.

5.4.4 National Population Commission

- 1) Collect, collate, analyze, interpret and disseminate well disaggregated, geo-referenced demographic quality data through censuses and sample surveys.
- 2) Collect, collate, analyse, interpret and disseminate vital statistics through the operation of effective Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system.
- 3) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of national population programmes in collaboration with other appropriate bodies and agencies.
- 4) Disseminate regional and gender disaggregated demographic data.
- 5) Collect and publish all migration statistics.
- 6) Repository of all population-related data and provide such data on request as appropriate to all arms of government especially Ministries of Finance, Budget and National Planning for development and national planning.

- 7) Coordinate training on population and development and related programmes.
- 8) Expand and promote the production, dissemination and utilization of population and development and related IEC and advocacy materials using a multi-media approach.
- 9) Provide training opportunities to journalists and other media practitioners in the population and development fields.
- 10) Strengthen media facilities for enhanced and sustained population-related IEC and SBCC.
- 11) Provide policy guidelines on dissemination of population and development and related information.
- 12) Ensure that population and development concerns are integrated into training curricula of medical and other health institutions.
- 13) Support, promote and coordinate research activities in population and development including reproductive and sexual health, reproductive rights and gender issues.
- 14) Provide Leadership for advocacy to promote Family Planning/Birth Spacing and overall population management.
- 15) Coordinate the overall demographic dividend in Nigeria and implementation of the roadmap on demographic dividend

5.4.5 National Bureau of Statistics

- 1) Collect, collate, analyze, interpret and disseminate socio-economic data to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of population and development programmes.
- 2) Disaggregate data by age, gender, region and state etc. and disseminate at all levels – national, regional and state.
- 3) Update and supply data on a regular basis to relevant agencies and institutions.

5.4.6 Ministry of Health

- 1) Implement programmes on sexual and reproductive health and services, including family planning at all levels.
- 2) Ensure the constant supply of contraceptives and consumables to all service delivery points.
- 3) Support health sector response for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.
- 4) Disseminate appropriate facility-based reproductive health messages and materials at the clinical service points.
- 5) Provide adequate information and raise awareness on issues affecting healthy lifestyle such as poor nutrition, smoking, consumption of alcohol, harmful drugs and other substances of abuse.
- 6) Build human resource for health to provide clinical services at all levels for reproductive health.
- 7) Conduct operations research on clinical aspects of sexual and reproductive health.

- 8) Set policies, standards and guidelines for reproductive health service provision.
- 9) Strengthen the capacity of health facilities, particularly at the Primary Health Care Centres, to provide quality, appropriate and culturally accepted reproductive health information, counseling and services.
- 10) Update health facilities in terms of structure, personnel and equipment to ensure the provision of quality reproductive health services.
- 11) Ensure and promote preventive and curative health services.
- 12) Strengthen referral mechanisms between various levels of health care.
- 13) Promote and implement the national nutrition and food security programmes.
- 14) Collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate health service statistics
- 15) Make adequate budgetary provision and ensure timely release of funds for the implementation of Health-population related activities.
- 16) Intensify efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage and health security for all Nigerians including refugees, migrants and Internally Displaced Persons.
- 17) Train human resource for health to respond to health needs of older persons
- 18) Establish a robust preparedness and response strategy for epidemics and pandemics

5.4.7 Ministry of Education

- 1) Intensify efforts to achieve Universal Basic Education and eliminate illiteracy.
- 2) Expand the integration and teaching of population and family life education into relevant subject curricula at all levels and various institutions, including nomadic schools.
- 3) Support population and family life education research programmes.
- 4) Expand the training of teachers in population and family life education.
- 5) Introduce population and family life into mass literacy, adult and non-formal educational programmes to cater for the out-of-school youths and adults.
- 6) Ensure the provision of extra-curricular population and family life education in schools.
- 7) Monitor the standard of teaching activities and the performance of students in relation to population and family life education at all levels.
- 8) Collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate education services statistics
- 9) Provide national and state by state gender parity index of school going age for population for development purposes.
- 10) Regularly revise educational curricular in response to labour market dynamics.

5.4.8 Ministry of Information and Culture

- 1) Mobilize and direct all its media channels to sensitize, disseminate and educate Nigerians on population management, importance of family planning and development related issues.
- 2) Liaise with both government and private print and electronic (including new) media as vehicles for reaching-out to the public on population and development issues, especially at the community level.
- 3) Direct the National Orientation Agency to engage or create more awareness among Nigerians and other stakeholders on population and development matters.
- 4) Carry out public enlightenment and mobilization campaigns on population management and demographic dividend and the ICPD PoA “Unfinished Agenda” with reference to the Nairobi Summit Commitments to achieve the three (3) Zeros by 2030.

5.4.9 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- 1) Integrate population and family life education activities into the training programmes of extension workers.
- 2) Equip extension workers with knowledge and skills to promote reproductive health care services.
- 3) Promote women's access to land, agricultural credit and other productive resources.
- 4) Promote environment-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.

- 5) Collect, analyze and disseminate data on agricultural products and services.
- 6) Mobilize resources at all levels for agricultural initiatives and innovations.
- 7) Promote and implement the national food security programmes at all levels.
- 8) Tackle issues of hunger and malnutrition.

5.4.10 Ministry of Labour and Employment

- 1) Strengthen training programmes in population management and family life education for workers.
- 2) Ensure the regular collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of gender-disaggregated employment statistics.
- 3) Promote policies that will ensure equitable access to employment opportunities for men and women, particularly youth.
- 4) Monitor labour practices to discourage child labour, forced labour and unfair labour practices in workplaces.
- 5) Promote women and child-friendly programmes at workplaces, including crèche, daycare centres and breast-feeding support.
- 6) Promote policies that will ensure the rights of all workers, including those living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 7) Promote enterprises development and youth employment.

- 8) Establish a mechanism for the protection of migrant workers from abuse.

5.4.11 Ministry of Environment

- 1) Educate people on the impact of population and resource management on the environment and natural resources.
- 2) Promote understanding of the interrelationships between population, development and environmental issues such as climate change, flood, desertification, illegal mining, erosion, gas flaring, and oil spillage (that destroys means of livelihoods).
- 3) Monitor the impact of population dynamics on the environment.
- 4) Monitor the generation and handling of domestic and industrial wastes.
- 5) Promote effective interventions for conservation of natural resources and protection of the environment for sustainable development, including tree planting.
- 6) Promote appropriate legislations to discourage tree-felling, bush-burning and other practices that have negative consequences on the environment.
- 7) Ensure that environmental impact assessments are conducted periodically for potential development activities to assess their possible impact on the population.
- 8) Collect, collate, analyze and disseminate data on population-environment-development inter-relationships.
- 9) Promote Climate change advocacy.

- 10) Ensure environmental protection and national resource conservation for Sustainable Development.

5.4.12 Ministry of Works and Housing

- 1) Keep track of trends in the demand for housing in both rural and urban areas and harmonize these demands with population needs.
- 2) Design medium to long-term plans for the development of towns and cities with attention on the rapid rate of urbanization.
- 3) Promote and design programmes to improve housing and other relevant infrastructure in both rural and urban areas.
- 4) Collect, collate, analyze and disseminate data on housing and related issues.
- 5) Provide and regularly maintain roads and other rural infrastructure.

5.4.13 Ministry of Power

- 1) Ensure sustainable energy and power supply to support productive livelihood and development.
- 2) Undertake IEC activities to increase understanding of the impact of energy utilization on sustainable development.
- 3) Collect, analyze and disseminate data on energy generational and utilization.

5.4.14 Ministry of Women Affairs

- 1) Promote awareness of population and family life issues among women at various levels.
- 2) Promote and ensure the implementation of measures and activities that will improve and enhance the status of women, their children and the family.
- 3) Advocate the integration of gender concerns into development planning at all levels.
- 4) Advocate the elimination of gender-based violence and all forms of harmful practices that hinder the development of women, girls and children.
- 5) Undertake IEC activities to sensitize the public on gender issues.
- 6) Advocate the provision of support facilities such as creches, daycare centres in work places and within local communities for working mothers.
- 7) Collect, analyze, and disseminate data on women and children in development programmes and activities.
- 8) Promote the collection of gender-disaggregated data.
- 9) Promote economic development and self-reliance among women and other vulnerable groups through training and skill acquisition opportunities.
- 10) Advocate and support processes that promote the education of girls.

5.4.15 Ministry of Justice

- 1) Review and revise, if necessary, laws pertaining to population and development issues in conjunction with the National Population Commission and other relevant stakeholders.
- 2) Review and amend existing laws relating to harmful practices such as child marriage, infanticide and gender-related discrimination against girls, women and other persons.
- 3) Provide legal guidance and facilitate enactment of necessary laws on matters concerning population and reproductive health and rights.
- 4) Promote laws directed at curbing environmentally harmful activities in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- 5) Promote the integration of relevant international and regional Charters, Treaties and Obligations on population and development issues into domestic laws.
- 6) Undertake IEC activities to increase awareness on laws pertaining to population and reproductive health and rights issues.
- 7) Prosecute violations of population and development laws.

5.4.16 Ministry of Youth and Sports Development

- 1) Promote and ensure the implementation of measures and activities that will improve and enhance the status of young people and persons with disabilities.
- 2) Mobilize, sensitize and integrate young people into population and development activities.

- 4) Collect, analyze and disseminate data on youth development programmes and activities.
- 5) Advocate and support the involvement and active participation of young people in issues that concerns them.
- 5) Create effective platforms to engage young people to understand the importance of population management

5.4.17 Ministry of Interior

- 1) Regulate the in-flow, outflow, and stay of international migrants.
- 2) Collect data on international migration and transmit same to National Population Commission for analysis and dissemination.
- 3) Advocate best practices in national disaster management.

5.4.18 Ministry of Mines and Steel Development

- 1) Ensure sustainable energy and power supply to support productive livelihood and development activities.
- 2) Undertake IEC activities to increase understanding of the impact of energy utilization on sustainable development.
- 3) Collect, analyze and disseminate data on energy generation and utilization.

5.4.19 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 1) Advocate globally on the need to progressively put all segments of the society and population groups at the heart of the implementation of population and development

activities towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- 2) Facilitate processes to access benefits from opportunities, supports, sponsorships and scholarships for population and development available at the United Nations and other relevant international bodies.
- 3) Ensure effective coordination of international humanitarian assistance efforts to meet humanitarian needs.
- 4) Ensure Nigeria's effective participation in international Expert Group meetings and conferences on population and development matters by recommending expert participation to relevant MDAs.
- 5) Collaborate with the international community at the UN General Assembly to produce a blueprint for a better international response to the social and humanitarian crises occasioned by large movements of refugees and migrants.
- 6) Take concerted international actions to curb the inherent danger posed by the phenomenon of modern slavery and human trafficking.
- 7) Campaign at international level, on the need to respect Human Rights and ensure equal opportunity for all people.
- 8) Liaise with various UN specialized agencies and other International Development Partners to domesticate population and development programmes of relevance to Nigeria's development.
- 9) Promote global partnership that will open up technical assistance and funding opportunities to support population and development issues and capacity building for Nigerians.

5.4.20 Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (MHADMSD)/ NEMA

As a government key agency for disaster management, MHADMSD coordinates resources towards efficient and effective disaster prevention, preparation, mitigation and response in Nigeria as well as address issues of older persons. In this regard it shall:

- 1) Formulate and implement policies on all activities relating to disaster management in Nigeria and co-ordinate the plans and programmes for efficient and effective response to disasters.
- 2) Ensure adequate preparedness and response to disaster and humanitarian crisis locations.
- 3) Collect, collate, analyze and widely disseminate data on disaster management, humanitarian operations, and on ageing.
- 4) Provide social services and implement educational programmes that will promote the family as the integral unit for supporting Older persons.
- 5) Expand implementation of social safety nets and social protection to adequately cater for the vulnerable population.

5.4.21 Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy

The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy is saddled with the responsibility to transform Nigeria into a leading digital economy, provide quality life and digital economies for all. To achieve this vision, it deploys the use of digital innovation and entrepreneurship to create value and prosperity for all. Therefore:

- 1) Digital economy to promote Literacy and Skills, across the different segment of the population including training and retraining for women, youths, journalists, civil servants and those who are certificated but unemployed.
- 2) Facilitate the deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to Family Planning uptake to support births spacing, improve the health of women and promote population management.

5.4.22 Ministry of Science and Technology

The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, is one of the strategic Ministries of Government saddled with the responsibility of facilitating the development and deployment of Science, Technology and Innovation to enhance the pace of socio-economic development of the country. Accordingly, the Ministry will support:

- 1) Application of natural medicine resources and technologies for health sector development.
- 2) Promote the use of Satellite Technology to facilitate population and migration management, food security and malnutrition prevention for improvement of quality of life of the population.

5.4.23 Tertiary Education Institutions and Research Institutes

- 1) Provide training on population and development concerns.
- 2) Undertake research activities on population and development, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and other related issues.

- 3) Provide advisory services on population and development, reproductive health including HIV/AIDS.
- 4) Assist in the evaluation of programmes related to the successful implementation of the Population Policy.
- 5) Disseminate research findings on population and development extensively to the public and policy makers.

5.4.24 National Leadership Training Institutions

- 1) Incorporate population education programmes into the curricula of institutions such as the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria, and other specialized institutions.
- 2) Undertake and promote research on relevant population-related concerns.
- 3) Encourage graduates to influence population and development policies and integrate population variables into development planning through advocacy efforts and networking.

5.4.25 Armed Forces and Police

- 1) Undertake IEC and SBCC programmes for the promotion of reproductive and sexual health including family planning and reproductive rights of their members and families.
- 2) Provide quality reproductive health services to their members and families.
- 3) Integrate population and family life education into military and police training.

5.4.26 Civil Society Organizations

- 1) Complement government efforts in the formulation, financing, implementation, and evaluation of population and development projects and programmes.
- 2) Promote and support networks for reproductive health, gender, access and human rights.
- 3) Expand reproductive health information and services delivery to the communities, especially to hard-to-reach areas and to populations in humanitarian settings.
- 4) Undertake operational research activities in innovative methods of reproductive health service delivery.
- 5) Collaborate with relevant line ministries and government agencies in the implementation of reproductive health, reproductive rights, SBCC and other related population and development issues.
- 6) Collect and submit service statistics to relevant government agencies on regular basis. Advocate the relevant policy changes in population and development matters.
- 7) Support the wide dissemination of the population policy, participate in monitoring its implementation and tracking of progress at achieving the goals of the policy.

5.4.27 Religious Organizations and Traditional Institutions

- 1) Provide moral and spiritual instructions that will promote positive reproductive and sexual health behaviours.
- 2) Sensitize their members and communities on population and development, reproductive health-related issues including family planning, HIV/AIDS and other STIs.
- 3) Advocate for appropriate policy changes and programmes in reproductive health, reproductive rights and other population and development related areas.
- 4) Promote reproductive health care services consistent with their religious beliefs.
- 5) Promote programmes that will enhance reproductive health status, reproductive rights, and gender equity and equality.
- 6) Sensitize the public on the existence and importance of the Population Policy.
- 7) Sensitize their members and communities on the importance of registering all births and deaths.
- 8) Monitor the implementation of the different sector population and development-focused programmes and use the information generated to provide evidence for advocacy.
- 9) Track government expenditures for the different population and development programmes.

5.4.28 Political Parties

- 1) Support the implementation of population and development programmes.
- 2) Provide information and education on population-development-environment interrelationships to their members.
- 3) Promote and advocate the appropriate policy changes in the area of population and development including highlighting the importance of population management.
- 4) Encourage the inclusion of population concerns into Party manifestos, plans and programmes of action at all levels.

5.4.29 Mass Media

- 1) Produce programmes and disseminate information on population and development, reproductive health and other related development issues.
- 2) Collaborate with other agencies in undertaking SBCC campaigns on population and development, reproductive and sexual health, gender concerns, environment and related issues.
- 3) Advocate on the policy changes and programmes in population-related areas.
- 4) Consciously, support the nation-wide dissemination of the population policy
- 5) Assist relevant agencies in dissemination of population and health data.

5.4.30 Organized Private Sector

The organized private sector is an essential partner in policy change implementation and will complement the efforts of the Government in this regard.

5.4.31 Special Committees

The National Population Commission may set up, from time to time, special committees or advisory groups to give advice on specific issues such as:

- 1) Liaising with donor agencies, civil society, and the organized private sector to ensure that the country derives maximum benefit from donor assistance in the implementation of the population policy.
- 2) Sensitizing the public on population management and reproductive health related issues including HIV/AIDS and STIs.
- 3) Promoting programmes that will enhance reproductive rights and gender equality.

CHAPTER SIX

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Government, civil society, and private sector will need to work together to mobilize sufficient resources from internal and external sources for implementation of the population policy. For successful implementation and management of population and development programmes, critical resource requirements will include human, technical, financial and material at Federal, State and LGA levels. The Government of Nigeria recognizes and appreciates the role that donor support has played in financing population and development activities. However, in line with our commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and in the spirit of self-reliance, the Government will endeavour to increase its funding level for population and development programmes commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the goals and targets of the National Population Policy.

6.1 Human Resources

To improve the human resource base for population policy implementation, the following shall be undertaken:

- 1) Comprehensive and data-based human resource policy for population and development activities shall be formulated and implemented.
- 2) Nigerian Universities and other appropriate tertiary institutions shall promote institutionalization of training of population and development manpower and human resource for health.

- 3) Short-term service training through workshops and seminars at local and international levels shall be encouraged.
- 4) Government shall promote and sponsor exchange programmes with countries with successful models and best practices on population and development.

6.2 Financial Resources

The sources of financing shall be both internal and external. Thus:

- 1) Government at all levels and the people of Nigeria shall strive to increase internal funding for population and development programmes.
- 2) Federal, State and Local Governments shall provide annual budgetary allocation and release for implementation of the population and development programmes.
- 3) The National Population Commission and its relevant Committees and other Agencies at all levels shall mobilize resources from other sources of internal and external funding.
- 4) Government through the National and State Houses of Assembly shall create specific budget lines to adequately fund population and development coordination activities at National, State and LGA levels.
- 5) Government shall create a budget line dedicated for coordination activities.
- 6) In addition to external funding from development partners, Federal and State Governments shall increase domestic financing to support population policy implementation.
- 7) Federal, State and Local Governments shall provide necessary counterpart funding and contributions for the implementation of donor-assisted programmes and projects.

- 8) Government and development partners shall ensure transparency and accountability in the disbursement and utilization of funds for population activities.
- 9) Government shall encourage organized private sector to support population and development programmes, including a possible private sector Trust Fund for population management.
- 10) Government of Nigeria shall explore all possibilities of debt swap to help fund implementation of the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development.

6.3 Material and Technical Resources

Material and technical resources are essential to the processes of policy implementation, therefore:

- 1) Government shall procure and provide technical equipment for the provision of quality reproductive health care services, the decennial conduct of population and housing census, and regular surveys, development of data banks and other relevant population and development related activities.
- 2) Government shall procure contraceptives plus consumables and strengthen the logistics system and distribution network to ensure regular availability of commodities at service delivery points and prevent leakages and wastage.
- 3) Government shall ensure the availability of technical resources, including instructional (protocols, SOPs), advocacy and SBCC /IEC materials and Monitoring and Evaluation tools, relevant to the achievement of the goals of the population policy.

6.4 Inter-agency Coordination, Collaboration and Partnership

Several stakeholders and partners including external donors shall be involved in the implementation of the population policy. Therefore, strong coordination arrangement is required to ensure the most efficient use of available resources. The collaboration/partnership will include policy makers, stakeholders, organizations, agencies, NGOs, CSOs/advocacy groups, Faith-Based Organizations, the Media, Donors and Partners who, through joint effort, resources, and decision making, responsibilities and share of ownership on multiple administrative levels, will support the implementation of the Revised Population Policy guided by the Strategic Implementation Plan. Accordingly, many partners, including external donors, shall be involved in the policy implementation. Coordination is required to ensure the most efficient use of available resources through:

- 1) Periodic assessments to identify resource needs in the population and development sectors shall be carried out by government and shall be reviewed by implementing partners.
- 2) Government, donor agencies, civil society organizations, all other stakeholders and organized private sector shall work together to ensure that the country derives maximum benefit from internal and external resources for the implementation of the population policy.
- 3) Foster effective stakeholders' engagements to facilitate achievement of population management.