Food Security and Population Growth ...
Population trends and dynamics

Figure 1. Population of the world, 1950-2100, according to different projections and variants

- If fertility declines:
  - 2050: 9.6 billion
  - 2100: 10.9 billion

- If fertility remains or increases:
  - 2050: 10.9 billion
  - 2100: 16.6 billion

Population trends and dynamics

- **Less Developed countries**
  - 2013: 5.9 billion
  - 2050: 8.2 billion

- **Least developed**
  - 2013: 898 million
  - 2050: 1.8 billion

Source: Population Reference Bureau
Youth and children population now in less developed countries are at an all-time high: 1.7 billion children and 1.1 billion young people.

Globally, population aged 60 or over is the fastest growing cohort: developed regions’ increasing at 1.0 per cent annually (before 2050) While less developed regions’ 60 or over-60 cohort are increasing at the fastest pace ever.

Youth and Ageing – two critical cohorts
Pacific-Specifics

- Population growth & food insecurity - potential conflict flash points
- Negligent gender equity status
- Formative governance & accountability
- High adolescent fertility rates (85 RMI/5 in France)
- Small population base but high density
- Minimal infrastructural development
- Youth (15-24) comprise 15-20% of populations
- Ageing: a new & challenging demographic
- Contraceptive prevalence rate (Australia 71/Kiribati 22)
- In all Pacific Island Countries, women outlive men: an opportunity?
Moving forward

Natural resources: Climate Change & Increased Production

Enough food for All but 1 in 7 Chronically Hungry

High fertility rate = Most urgent food security

Women can increase yield 20-30% = 150 million mouths

Enabling environment: food security does not equal lower population growth
Centralize people (population dynamics) in national, regional & global responses

Socio-Economic Equity: To address access/distribution & empower individuals to feed themselves

Gender Equity plays a huge role in food security: Invest in SRHR & Women’s access to Agro-financing /Support

Private Sector Engagement CRITICAL

Stable Governance & Effective Accountability
Concluding Remarks

- A food-secure world must also have policy interventions which addresses other challenges like urban planning, sustainability in the face of instability.

- Child-bearing by choice and not chance allows planning considerate of available resources & time for personal and national investment in food security.

- Food security is about access, not necessarily about a declining population growth for there is enough food for everyone as it is.

Investment in international family planning and reproductive health can improve families’ well-being at the household level, while helping to slow population growth in areas most affected by food security.

• Invest in gender equality initiatives for social equity that can address food security in terms of access and distribution;

• Centralize humanity, invest in sexual and reproductive health and rights issues to address the well-being of the fundamental unit of society, the family in whatever form;

• There is no harm in the specificity of direct investment in women’s agricultural capacity for once women have access to credit, land and other basic tenets of food production, they can do incredible things in terms of securing food security for themselves and their families;

• Population must not always be seen as a threat, it is about managing it.
Thank you