

## **ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP**

### **Background:**

One of the landmark initiatives of the United Nations in recent times is its effort towards translating the priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) into concrete programme activities as per the agencies' mandates and programmes. The 'Inter-Agency Working Groups', which were set up to share information on development issues and coordinate joint initiatives by UN agencies, is a step in that direction. In India, there are Nine Inter-Agency Working Groups functioning in vital areas as Child Labour; Decentralization, Population and Development; Gender and Development; Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition; Primary Education; Database; and Water and Sanitation. The working groups comprise of members from various UN agencies with a firm commitment to extend financial, technical and other assistance in carrying forward the objectives of the group.

*The UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Population & Development (IAWG-P&D)* was formed in 1994 with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as the host agency and other UN organizations as its members. The IAWG-P&D seeks to examine, explore and recommend linkages between population issues and development concerns thus addressing development through its work on population concerns. Within its capacity as a small working group and keeping with its commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in 1994, in Cairo the IAWG-P&D attempts at coordinating the efforts of various UN organizations to make a difference. The group emphasizes multi-sectoral linkages and coordinated interventions. It undertakes advocacy initiatives with the UN, Government agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, NGO's etc., in accordance with its mandate. Over the years the IAWG-P&D has played the role of a catalyst and a facilitator in promoting 'Adolescents' development activities at various levels, focusing specially on promoting the life skills of adolescents.

The IAWG-P&D comprises and functions with the active support and cooperation from various UN agencies like UNFPA (lead /host agency), FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNV, WB, WFP, WHO-India, WHO-SEARO.

### **Purpose of the Working Group:**

- To achieve comprehensive understanding of population and development issues.
- To share information and harmonize interventions of UN agencies on population and development issues.
- To discuss ways of better assisting the Government of India to monitor and achieve the national goals for population and development.
- To discuss ways of better contributing to sustainable human development with special focus on adolescents and gender.
- To discuss ways of better integrating the population concerns with development strategies and planning.

## Mandate of the Working Group:

- Synergise interventions of UN agencies on population and development issues.
- Promote comprehensive understanding of population and development issues.
- Assist the GOI to monitor and achieve the national goals for population and development.
- Contribute to sustainable human development with special focus on Adolescents and Gender.
- Integrate population concerns with development strategies and planning.

## Commitment of the Group:

- Framework for action
- International Conference on Population & Development, 1994, Cairo:  
<http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/index.htm>
- Millennium Development Goals (MDG)  
<http://www.undp.org/mdg/goalsandindicators.html>
- United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)  
<http://www.un.org.in/undaf.htm>

## Key Themes:

- Population, Sustainable development and education.
- Gender equality and equity.
- Reproductive rights and reproductive health.

## Present theme:

- Adolescents and related issues.