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Understanding and Managing Risks in the Anthropocene:

Lessons from USAID's Population, Health & Environment (PHE) Programming

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Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Approach



1: PHE is an approach used by health and environment organizations around the world

- PHE is an integrated approach to improving access to health services, including voluntary FP/RH, while helping communities to manage natural resources and conserve the critical ecosystems on which they depend.
- Several PHE projects have been funded in over 20 countries, reaching thousands of men and women living in remote, biodiverse areas, and providing access to health services and information, including FP/RH.



2: PHE Approach Increases Access to FP especially in Hard to Reach Areas

- A marine conservation organization in southwestern Madagascar, has integrated FP/RH initiatives into their conservation activities. Since adding FP activities, CPR rose from 10 percent before the project began in 2007 to 55 percent by 201.
- Health of People and the Environment - Lake Victoria Basin (HoPE-LVB) reports 16,944 new family planning clients between a baseline survey in July 2012 and a midterm review in December 2013.



3: PHE Approach Increases Male Participation in FP/RH

- The Guraghe People's Self-Help Development Organization (GPSDO) in Ethiopia dramatically increased the number of men who supported family planning from 7% percent to 30%.
- A PHE operations research project with Green Belt Movement, a Kenyan environmental organization, documented that having “Green Volunteers” allowed couples to talk more freely about their family planning choices, and motivated some men and women to seek family planning services as a couple.
- Male beneficiaries of the Sustaining Partnerships to enhance Rural Enterprise and Agribusiness Development (SPREAD) project in Rwanda reported a “change in mentality” around family planning.



4: PHE Approach Increases Social and Economic Empowerment for Women and Youth

- Women in the intervention communities of the HoPE-LVB project report greater economic freedom as a result of livelihood interventions introduced by the project including tree nurseries and sustainable gardening of vegetables around the home.
- Roots and Shoots project in Uganda project used peer outreach and the donation of school and sanitary supplies to encourage 670 girls to go back to school after previously dropping out, and reduce female absenteeism.
- PHE projects in Rwanda and the Philippines found that using a peer engagement and stewardship model which tied to conservation ideas to spread messages about health and sexuality was more effective than providing RH only information.



#5: PHE Approach Increases Community Support and Buy-in for FP

- The SPREAD Project in Rwanda included an integrated community health component for target coffee farmer groups coffee sector. It found that the beneficiaries perceived the program positively and that it successfully increased support for FP.
- Both implementers and beneficiaries of PHE projects continue to report the added value of integration of health, environment, and livelihood activities both in time and cost savings.



7: Cross-sector funding and partnerships is critical for PHE programming

- Various flavors of funding are required
 - Health, environment, economic growth etc
- Multi-donor consortiums can unlock opportunities
- Collaboration and partnerships among different sector program teams in design, co-funding and implementation, M&E.

8: PHE Makes Sense for SDGs

- The SDGs recognize the integrated nature of development and thus, the need for integrated approaches
- PHE can help meet multiple SDGs
- PHE is relevant for People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

