

Report on the Study Visit for ExCom Members on Population and Development Interventions

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The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

The African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA)

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List of Acronyms

APDA	The Asian Population and Development Association
APFPD/FPA	The African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development
ICPD PoA	International Conference on Population and Development- Plan of Action
GBV	Gender Based Violence
MPs	Members of Parliament
PPAG	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
UNFPA	The United Nation Population Fund

Acknowledgement

The Study visit was conducted as a result of efforts from various stakeholders. This is an expression of thanks to the all the partners and their contribution towards the success of this event.

Great appreciation is extended to the Government of Japan, the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and United Nations Population

Fund (UNFPA) for putting together the facilities to support the activities of the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA)

The Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development on behalf of Parliament and Government of Ghana has been acknowledged for hosting the ExCom Members for the study visit.

Agencies visited and information provided to the delegation was learning moment

A great Thank you

1 Background

With support from partners, the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA) has engaged in various population and development campaigns. There was great need for members to benchmark in countries that have scored in relation to activities and programmes on population and development. In the intentions to appreciate and adopt key lessons for proper programming and activity implementation, Ghana was proposed following the success stories already indicated in their population activities.

The delegation engaged in discussions with Ghana's legislature and other key stakeholders, focusing on Ghana's adherence to international commitments such as the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to population issues.

2. Justification

The essence of the study visit for the ExCom Members was to enhance their understanding and gain insights into effective population and development strategies in Ghana. This was also considered as an opportunity to strengthen the networks by creating connections among parliamentarians and local stakeholders to support ongoing collaboration and advocacy.

Using the Ghana case as a reference point was not only to improve population interventions but also help participating parliamentarians to domesticate best practices in their home countries and also formulate a set of recommendations for ExCom members to implement in their respective countries to improve population and development policies.

3. Objectives of the Study Visit

The ExCom study visit in Ghana was based on the following objectives;

1. To enhance understanding and collaboration on Population and Development issues in Ghana. The design was to allow ExCom members to learn about Ghana's successful policies in this domain.
2. To foster dialogue on Ghana's policies and programs around Population and Development, particularly successes, challenges, and lessons learnt.
3. Strengthen collaboration among parliamentarians, government institutions, NGOs, and academic bodies to boost advocacy efforts.
4. Foster alliances between the African Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development (APFPD/FPA) and Ghanaian organizations to further advance the Population and Development agenda across Africa.

DAY1 ACTIVITIES

Visit to UNFPA

Welcome remarks:

Mrs. Adejoa Yenyi, Program Specialist-Adolescents and Youth Development, UNFPA Ghana: population issues are critical and we should ensure a comprehensive programme to achieve the demands of the population. Encouraged the members to walk the talk as they emphasize inclusiveness in the interventions and were implored to should follow the UNFPA international slogan of *leaving no one behind* while executing duties and programmes.

Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo: Acknowledged UNFPA's contribution to the caucus activities and parliament for over 10 years. Many interventions have been executed including legislation and advocacy out of the good partnership registered by parliament with UNFPA. He called upon partners to continue with the same spirit as it would help to improve the quality of life for our people.

Reported that the forum is preparing for other bigger meetings including TCAD, Asia African parliamentarians meeting etc. The essence of the study visit was to learn and also generate key issues to be raised in side events for the meeting where ExCom Members will be part. In addition, they would also share the success stories with their colleagues for better policy implementation.

Reported from the Executive Committee that was held in Kampala as it was resolved to have the forum Secretariate established in Ghana. Assigned to spearhead the issues of office establishment and called upon UNFPA to embrace and support the idea.

To inform, the meeting that the ExCom in attendance represented all the Executive and general membership of FPA. All the issues generated from the interactions will be shared with members to enrich their knowledge on population interventions.



Remarks:

Hon. Elvis Morris Donkoh: Offer insights into the forum's work before Honorables delegates were invited for self-introduction to the audience

Presentations

Presentation on UNFPA Missions / Objectives / Country Programme

The meeting witnessed a presentation on UNFPA, focusing on mission, operational objectives, and the scope of the 8th Country Programme. The presentation detailed UNFPA's global and national frameworks, the program's alignment with local and international development plans, and its dedication to support vulnerable and marginalized communities. The presentation featured the UNFPA's Bull's-eye, the in-country program outcomes and the value propositions of UNFPA.

Global Mission and Objectives

The vision and transformative mission of UNFPA is to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every child is safe and every young person potential is safe. UNFPA's mission is focused on achieving three key objectives by 2030. UNFPA works across 150 countries to achieve the three transformative results.

1. **Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths:** Reducing maternal mortality by improving access to quality healthcare by 2030.
2. **Zero Unmet Need for Family Planning:** Ensuring access to family planning resources so individuals can make informed choices.
3. **Zero Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices:** Eliminating gender-Based violence, including practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) and then teenager and child abuse.

Target Populations and Core Focus Areas:

UNFPA's programs prioritize women, adolescents, and youth, especially those from marginalized communities, aiming at improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, promote reproductive rights, and provide socio-economic empowerment.

UNFPA's Operational Framework in the 8th Country Programme:

Aligned with the National Mutual Development Plan, the UN Sustainable Development Framework, and SDGs, the 8th Country Programme identified three main operational outputs:

1. **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) – Quality of Care:** Enhancing access to quality SRH services, especially family planning.
2. **Gender and Social Norms:** Addressing harmful social practices and fostering gender equality.
3. **Adolescent and Youth Programs:** Supporting youth empowerment through accessible health resources and inclusive programs.

Additionally, two cross-cutting themes were emphasized include population and Development highlighting the importance of accurate data to inform planning and track progress and Humanitarian Response adapting core programs to address SRH, youth, and quality of care needs during humanitarian crises

Key Activities in Sexual and Reproductive Health:

1. Family Planning and Procurement where UNFPA complements government initiatives by supplying over 40% of Family Planning commodities in Ghana, Efforts also include advocating for Family Planning in funded healthcare services and supporting Policy Development.
2. Advocacy and Policy Support where: UNFPA collaborates with the Ghana Health Service to develop policies that create an enabling environment for SRH.
3. Supply Chain and Last-Mile Reach by ensuring that Family Planning resources reach remote communities, with a focus on overcoming logistical challenges to serve even the most isolated areas.

Youth-Related Initiatives:

The ExCom Members had opportunity to learn from the Youth related initiatives which provides service mainly in empowering and training: Given the unique needs of young people, UNFPA invests in training healthcare providers to offer approachable and supportive services.

The inclusion of youth in policy- making structures, and advocating for their voice in leadership spaces helps to ensure having policies that reflect their needs and perspectives.

Capacity Building for Youth Leadership: through targeted programs, UNFPA equips young people with the skills and knowledge needed to participate effectively in decision-making processes. This approach aligns with UNFPA's commitment to empowering youth to engage with demographic and development challenges and contribute to national growth.

Key concerns noted at UNFPA

In UNFPA interventions, issues of GBV that are not so visible as most of them are done in secret and the victims fear to report. should also be tracked There is also a cultural belief that;

if your partner does not beat you, it is an indication that he doesn't love you

The age of consent for a girl for sex is 16 years and marriage is 18years in Ghana. It was considered an age too low for the girls to take decisions on sex engagement. However, before marriage is conducted, there to be a mechanism to ensure that the required age is attained.

Poverty was reported to be a driving force in all that is happening. When women get empowered, life will change for the better of the family and the community. Much as the government is providing education through public schools, it has become difficult to control and regulate private schools with their operations and charge

Closing remarks

Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Pelpuo: thanked UNFPA for being vigilant in Population activities and the continuing support accorded to parliament while executing duties. He assured UNFPA that Ghana Parliament will do the needful when laws in the UNPFA agenda come to the floor of Parliament.

He noted that UNFPA work has a bearing on the SDGs. Providing up to date data and statistics give MPs a better ground for legislation

Visit/Tour to the Ghanaian Parliament

The honorable guests had the opportunity to visit key facilities within the premises of Parliament, allowing them to observe the structures and systems in place.

Brief from Dr. Abdul Rashid Pelpuo on the Parliamentary setting:



He informed members that Ghana operates under a hybrid system under where 51% of the cabinet is selected from parliament and 49% from outside parliament.

The layout of the Ghanaian parliament promotes unity rather than adversarial Confrontation., with members sitting in a crescent formation. The majority sits on the right-hand side of the speaker while the minority sits to the left but the arrangement aims to minimize visible division. Much as their parliament

operates on the Multi Party system, key issues that touch people wellbeing like population issues tend to bring members together to a common voice and platform.



EXCOM Members in a Tour around Parliament of Ghana

Visit to the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana

Welcome remarks

Executive Director PPAG:

She gave an appreciation to the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus for organizing the study visit on behalf of the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development as she welcomed the delegation. It was noted that given the fertility rate that has

stagnated at 4 for the last 10 years and critical action is still required in population control. She called upon all partners to intensify the campaign of proper parenthood and increased male involvement in order to have a smooth environment for better program implementation on Population and Development

Presentation about Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG):

The presentation outlined the organization's mission to provide quality SRHR services, particularly to young people and marginalized groups. It was reported that the PPAG was established in 1967, with its initial focus on family planning for adults. A transformation occurred in 1999, following global conferences on population and development, shifting the organization's focus towards integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).



EXCOM Members witnessing a presentation from PPAG Team

PPAG management provided insights into their strategies, achievements, and challenges faced in implementing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) programs in Ghana. It was further noted that PPAG operates across 14 out of Ghana's 16 regions, with plans to expand further. Current programs include advocacy, community engagement, digital health interventions, and youth-led initiatives aimed at promoting family planning and addressing SRHR challenges.

Achievements were highlighted, such as contributions to national policies on SRHR, the establishment of youth-led projects, and the implementation of gender-transformative strategies. The use of community-based approaches and collaborations with local and international partners was emphasized.

Various challenges in promoting family planning and SRHR were identified that included cultural resistance and male opposition to family planning as significant barriers. Efforts have been made to engage men in discussions and to incorporate their participation in SRHR programs to address these issues.

Key Observations

Regarding abortion, it was clarified that while abortion is not legalized in Ghana, it is permissible under specific conditions such as rape, incest, fetal deformities, or risks to

the woman's mental or physical health. Strict guidelines and trained professionals are required to provide these services safely. It was added that such services must be provided by trained professionals in licensed facilities and accompanied by pre-abortion counseling.

An inquiry was raised regarding the appropriate age for young individuals to begin receiving birth control education. It was explained that the education typically started in adolescence, targeting young people between the ages of 10 and 24 as the programs were described as culturally sensitive and age-appropriate.

Concerns were raised about male opposition to Family Planning and how it was addressed. And was noted that efforts were made to engage men in discussions through targeted campaigns and inclusive projects. Examples were cited of successful cases where men actively supported their partners in accessing reproductive health services.

On how SRHR services were integrated with traditional and cultural practices, it was clarified that a culturally respectful approach was employed, which included recommending natural family planning methods for individuals whose religious or cultural beliefs did not permit artificial contraception.

Call to Action

Building champions to take the forefront in the campaign for better Sexual and Reproductive Health Services Engaging critical and influential public agencies, academic institutions and other influencers to neutralize the opposition to SRHR.

Intensify *the Go Back to school* campaign for girls already affected by dropout due to teenage pregnancies

DAY 2 ACTIVITIES

Visit to the National Population Council

Welcome remarks: Florence Hagan, Ag. Director, National Population Council

Welcomed members to Ghana and thanked them for the entire efforts in advancing the population agenda across Africa. Reported that the Council started as Ghana Family Planning Unit under the Ministry of Finance and was later taken over by the Office of the president having noted that population issues were cutting across several sectors beyond which were managed by the docket of Ministry of Finance. She further reported that the council has a Headquarter and operating branches in the country

She remarked that the biggest challenge the country is facing is the 1.9m youth who are idle. Not in school and not in employment. On this she called upon leaders to have this addressed as it would lead to the youth into risky behavior, she called upon leaders in Africa to give priority to the issues concerning the youth mainly through skilling and employment

Issues from the presentation

A long time Gender inequality and disparity was reported where marginalization is still on women and girls. Various legislations were in place to protect the marginalized groups

including the Domestic Violence Act 2007, The Children Act 1998, Justice for Children Policy 2015, The National Gender Policy 2015 and The Criminal Offences Bill 2022



EXCOM Team at Ghana National Population Council

A call to Action

1. Emphasizing Digital Transformation as championed by the President to support the Youth in the Technology sector and business development
2. Increased partnership with the National Planning and Development Commission to lay better strategies for population interventions
3. Strengthening partnership with the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus for better legislation and advocacy
4. There has to be a change in Curriculum to match education with the employment needs in Africa

Interaction with the National Development Planning Commission

Introduction

The discussions brought together policymakers and stakeholders to address critical issues related to Population and Development. The meeting focused on various topics, including youth empowerment, reproductive health, gender equality, and the integration of population concerns into national development strategies.

Participants also explored ways to align national efforts with international frameworks such as SDGs and shared insights on addressing regional development disparities and systemic challenges.

Key Highlights and Discussion

Collaborative Efforts in Population and Development



It was highlighted that the African Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development unites legislators working on population and development challenges. ExCom chaired by Hon. Abdul Rashid as President of the forum, enabling members to share success stories and learn from one another.

Emphasis on Youth and Reproductive Health

The discussions underscored the importance of prioritizing reproductive health services for youth and adolescents., promoting gender equality, addressing inequalities and continuing efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality rates through accessible healthcare

Integration of Population and Development into National Plans

It was noted that Ghana's National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) plays a key role in incorporating population concerns into long-term and medium-term plans. It was emphasized that the frameworks address poverty and regional disparities, supporting sustainable development.



Presentation at National Development Planning Commission

Human Capital Development Strategy

Attention was drawn to the development of a comprehensive human capital strategy led by NDPC in partnership with stakeholders, including educational institutions and the private sector. The initiative seeks to address skill mismatches in the labor market, with a finalized document anticipated by mid-next year.

Monitoring and Reporting Progress

The importance of monitoring progress was emphasized, and participants reflected on several key reviews and reports, including the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (2018)., the International Conference on Population and Development (2019), the 2021 Global Compact on Migration Report and the Voluntary Local Reviews focused on SDG progress. The reports were described as crucial tools for assessing progress and shaping future strategies

Development Indicators

It was explained that progress is assessed using indicators such as access to safe drinking water, maternal and under-five mortality rates, net enrollment rates, and gender parity in education. There was a call to action for promotion of the sectors in the development campaign championed by the legislators. They would help every country to achieve the promises make in the various treaties and protocols they are party to

Addressing Disparities in Poverty

The issue of poverty disparities across regions was brought to light. It was explained that in Ghana, poverty levels are often higher in specific regions, a trend shared with other countries. The Gulf of Guinea Social Cohesion project was cited as one initiative aimed at addressing such disparities.

Alignment with International Goals

The discussions reaffirmed the commitment to aligning policies with international frameworks such as the SDGs. Collaboration with global partners was recognized as a vital component of achieving development objectives.

Visit to Regional Institute of Population Studies

Introduction

The session began with an informative presentation on the history and structure of the Regional Institute for Population Studies. Established in 1972 by the United Nations, the institute was founded with the mission of enhancing cooperation across Anglophone Africa, particularly in the fields of population studies and sustainable development.

Historical Shift in Oversight:

The presentation also covered the important shift in the institute's governance, which took place in 1999 when oversight moved from the UN to the government of Ghana. This change was designed to give the institute greater flexibility to adapt to the educational needs of the region, especially as demographic trends became increasingly critical to policy planning. Today, the institute operates as a specialized unit within the University of Ghana, continuing its mission to strengthen human capital for sustainable development.

Training and Education:

The institute was reported to have made significant strides in educating future leaders and professionals who are now pivotal in shaping policies across the region. To date, nearly 2,500 graduates have completed programs at the institute, many of whom now occupy influential positions within governments, NGOs, and academic institutions. The institute's contributions to advancing population studies were presented as a cornerstone of its work, particularly in supporting regional countries with critical demographic research.

Addressing Key Social Issues

A significant portion of the meeting focused on critical social issues affecting African populations, with particular attention to the cultural practices that hinder development and gender equality.



EXCOM Team meeting the officials of Institute of Population studies

Contributions to Population Studies

One notable example was the institute's involvement in assisting Liberia with its national census. Faculty members from the institute provided technical support in census methodology, data collection, and analysis. This collaborative effort ensured the success of Liberia's 2023 census, providing the government with accurate demographic data that will guide future policies and development strategies.

Collaborations with Other African Nations: Beyond Liberia, the institute has extended its expertise to other African nations such as Nigeria, where it has contributed to capacity- building initiatives funded by the World Bank. This initiative focuses on training professionals in census techniques and data analysis, which are critical for creating evidence-based population policies across the region.

National Development Planning in Ghana

One of the key areas of discussion was Ghana's National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), which plays a central role in addressing the country's demographic challenges and shaping its development policies. The introduction of Vision 2027, a long-term development framework, was highlighted as a key initiative for Ghana's socio-economic transformation. This vision emphasizes the need for sustainable growth, with a particular focus on addressing population dynamics such as urbanization, aging populations, and rural migration.

Impact of the 2021 Census: The 2021 national census in Ghana was identified as a pivotal tool for informed decision-making. The census provides a wealth of data on population distribution, growth patterns, and socio-economic conditions, which can be used to guide policies in sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure. The institute's role in supporting the census process through technical assistance and expertise in data collection was acknowledged as vital in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the data.

Academic Programs and Research Opportunities

It was also reported that the institute's academic offerings, which include master's and Ph.D. programs are aimed at developing the next generation of experts in population studies, development, and public policy. The institute's graduate programs were highlighted as critical in providing students with the skills and knowledge needed to address the complex challenges facing African populations. These programs cover a range of disciplines, including statistical analysis, demographic research, and policy formulation, all designed to foster expertise in tackling development issues at both national and regional

levels.

Research and Collaboration:

The institute encourages research that contributes to both academic knowledge and practical solutions for population and development issues. Collaborative research with international organizations, governments, and NGOs is a cornerstone of the institute's approach, ensuring that its work remains relevant and impactful.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the meeting at the Regional Institute for Population Studies highlighted the institute's ongoing efforts to contribute to population studies and sustainable development in Africa. Through its educational programs, research initiatives, and collaborative efforts with various African governments, the institute plays a vital role in shaping policies that address the social, economic, and demographic challenges facing the region. The discussions emphasized the need for continued engagement with stakeholders, a more integrated approach to addressing social issues, and the importance of evidence-based policy formulation to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

Interaction with Officials of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)

Welcome remarks: Mrs. Melody Dake, Executive Director



She gave welcome remarks as she informed delegates that WILDAF is a network of institutions that are aimed promoting the rights of women and girls. Their strategies include advocacy, Legal literacy, Legal Aid Training among others

She ended by emphasizing WILDAF -Ghana's commitment to advancing women's rights through legal and grassroots efforts.

Organizational Overview

The coordinator provided an overview of WILDAF Ghana's structure and operations and reported

- The General Assembly as the network's highest decision-making body.
- The Board as a nine-member team (all-women) overseeing governance of the organization. Meetings are held biannually instead of quarterly to improve efficiency.
- The Secretariat: Responsible for day-to-day management. of the organization and reports to the General Assembly



EXCOM Team at WILDAF

Thematic Areas

WILDAF's key programmatic focuses:

1. Women's Access to Justice which covers Legal aid for victims of gender-based violence (GBV), promotion of legal literacy and capacity building for rural women.
2. Combating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence which considers the alarming rise of femicides in Ghana and shared strategies for tackling these cases.
3. Economic Empowerment promoting Projects supporting out-of-school women and vulnerable groups to gain financial independence were discussed.
4. Women's Political Participation that would ensure advocacy to increase women's representation in governance.
5. Gender and Land Rights addressing inequalities in customary land ownership and inheritance laws.

Key Achievements

WILDAF 'has registered key milestones from the legislative campaign and community engagements

1. WILDAF was instrumental in drafting and advocating for this law. Participants reflected on the collaboration with parliamentary committees to ensure gender-sensitive provisions.eg the Land Act and Intestate Succession Bill. These reforms were praised for protecting women's property rights, especially in rural areas.
2. Engaging chiefs, queen mothers, and local organizations to navigate cultural challenges effectively as a strategy for ensuring cultural sensitivity in advocacy
3. Boys for Change and Girls Empowerment initiatives were recognized for instilling gender equality values early on.
4. Shadow reporting on treaties like CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol.
5. Participation in the Commission on the Status of Women, where Ghana's grassroots issues were presented on a global stage.

Challenges Identified

Female Genital Mutilation remains a deeply entrenched practice in certain African communities, often

justified through cultural and traditional beliefs. The conversation underscored the necessity of collaborative efforts to eradicate FGM through public education, community engagement, and grassroots advocacy. The institute's role in advancing awareness and supporting community-driven change was highlighted as essential to empowering women and promoting broader societal transformation.

Widowhood Rights and Cultural Norms: Discussions also centered around harmful practices affecting widows, particularly those involving disinheritance or ritualistic rites that can further marginalize women. These cultural constraints were discussed within the context of ongoing advocacy for legal reforms that ensure widows' rights are protected. The importance of continued engagement with policymakers to address these issues was emphasized.

Interrelated Development Challenges: Members acknowledged that many of these social issues do not exist in isolation but are interconnected with broader challenges such as poverty, education, and healthcare access. As such, holistic policy approaches that integrate social, economic, and demographic data are essential for effective solutions.

Issued noted by the delegation

1. Cultural Resistance where efforts to promote gender equality often face pushback due to entrenched cultural norms.
2. Economic Dependencies where Poverty remains a barrier to women asserting their rights. Economic empowerment was emphasized as a critical area for intervention.
3. Rising Gender-Based Violence. WILDAF uses community entry strategies, engaging traditional leaders and grassroots organizations to ensure alignment with local customs.
4. The Acts and laws passed focus on participation in governance and decision-making, and WILDAF continues to monitor its application.
5. They have tried to monitor the compliance of countries to Treaties and convention, but Ghana as a country has not provided any report on the progress or status about the Maputo Declaration since it was ratified

Call to Action

The following actions were agreed upon;

- The group called for more rigorous enforcement of existing laws and community-driven interventions.
- Strengthen Economic Empowerment Programs
- Expand support for women in rural areas to gain financial independence.
- Enhance Youth Programs
- Scale up Boys for Change and Girls Empowerment initiatives to foster attitudinal change.
- Expand Dialogue with Policymakers and engagement with parliamentary committees to ensure gender-sensitive legislative outcomes.

Closing

The coordinator thanked the Honorables for their active participation and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in advancing WILDAF's mission.

Tour at Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum

Introduction

The study Tour was concluded with a tour at Kwame Nkrumah Museum. During the visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum in Accra, members were shown the rich life, legacy, and contributions of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana. The mausoleum not only serves as a burial site but also as a significant cultural and historical monument that reflects Nkrumah's impact on Ghana and the African continent.

Historical Context

Members began with an exploration of Nkrumah's background, highlighting his humble beginnings as the child of a blacksmith and a petty trader. It was noted that despite his modest origins, Nkrumah emerged as a pivotal figure in the fight against colonialism. The discussion included significant anecdotes, including a story about a statue of Nkrumah that had been hidden for 43 years by a dedicated supporter. The statue's return in 2009 marked a profound moment of remembrance and respect for Nkrumah's contributions to Ghanaian independence.



: Raising the sign of Osagyefo Legacy of moving forward

Museum Layout and Key Exhibits

Childhood Education and Family Life: The first section provided insights into Nkrumah's formative years, featuring artifacts such as his student trunk and bed.

Political Life: The discussion then shifted to Nkrumah's political career, emphasizing his role in mobilizing the masses against colonial rule. Various political texts and campaign materials were examined, showcasing his vision for an independent Ghana and his efforts in leading the African liberation movement.

Achievements and Gifts Received: In the third section, members viewed awards and gifts that Nkrumah received during his presidency. Photographs taken with international leaders, including a notable image of him dancing with the Queen of England, sparked conversations about his global influence and diplomatic relations.

Overthrown, Death, and Tributes: Finally, a reflected on the circumstances surrounding Nkrumah's overthrow and the subsequent challenges he faced. Tributes from friends, colleagues, and adversaries illuminated discussions about the complex legacy he left behind.

Architectural Significance

The architectural features of the mausoleum were not overlooked. The structure, designed by Ghanaian architect Dr. Don Atta, drew attention for its symbolic design, resembling a truncated tree signifying growth and continuity. Participants noted that the mausoleum also resembled the handle of a sword, representing both peace and conflict—concepts that embody Nkrumah’s vision for a united Africa. Discussion on the Black Star's significance, a symbol associated with Pan-Africanism introduced by Marcus Garvey. The Black Star served as a vital reminder of African unity and the ongoing struggle for collective independence.



EXCOM recap meeting of the study visit

Legacy and Symbolism

The final discussions centered on Nkrumah's lasting legacy, vision for unity among African nations, stressing that his ideals remain relevant in contemporary socio-political discourse.

Conclusion

The visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum proved to be an enlightening experience for all member. It fostered a greater appreciation for Ghana’s historical journey and the significant contributions made by Nkrumah. The mausoleum stands as an inspiring symbol of hope and a testament to the pursuit of peace and unity in Africa

Lessons Learnt from the Study Visit

Given the cultural diversity of different environments, the issue of study tour amongst policy makers becomes extremely crucial. Key lessons are drawn from the study by participants as below

- 1 coming together of African Parliamentarians is essential because issues of ICPD requires common understanding and combined effort
- 2 Ghana’s population growth has stagnated at 4 percent for the lats 10 years an impression that they have handled population control interventions with extreme care. Issues of birth controls, women empowerment and girl; child education and skilling have been given priority.

- 3 The Ghana National Population Council is under the office of the President. This was after realizing that concerns and coverage of the issues of the council cuts across different ministries
- 4 Traditional leaders are the custodians of culture and norms. They should not be ignored and left behind while addressing populations issues
- 5 UNFPA adopted a YMK (You Must Know) concept that has helped the youth get information for better livelihood and dealing with challenges of life. A lot of sensitization for the youth is required on the consequences of engaging in risky life.
- 6 The complementary Education System that emphasizes Skills Based Education was developed and is highly popular in Ghana to answer the unemployment challenge
- 7 The National Return to school strategy in Ghana gives chance to girls already impregnated to go back to school

Key Observations

1. Approaches of different countries towards ICPD have been a bit different and there is need to close the knowledge gap
2. Having knowledge from different countries about approaches towards population intervention is a strong base
3. Creating teamwork amongst the African networks to have a common voice
4. The rising population in Ghana is leading to resource depletion and increase in public expenditure
5. Declining Total Fertility rate is a great hope for Africa
6. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): FGM remains a deeply entrenched practice in certain African communities, often justified through cultural and traditional beliefs.
7. Widowhood Rights and Cultural Norms: Discussions also centered around harmful practices affecting widows, particularly those involving disinheritance or ritualistic rites that can further marginalize women.
8. Interrelated Development Challenges: Members acknowledged that many of these social issues do not exist in isolation but are interconnected with broader challenges such as poverty, education, and healthcare access.

Recommendations

1. Emphasize and promote programs that enhance women empowerment. This can help to build their voice in the planning and decision-making circles.
2. There is great need to bring men on board to avoid resistance while developing programs for women empowerment.
3. Great focus to be put on Youth Empowerment
4. Agriculture and mineral development to open room for more employment opportunities
5. Enhancement of education programmed e.g. Education for all, Go back to school policy for the girl child and skills development.
6. Agricultural mechanization is encouraged to promote Food Security.
7. Continued support towards the forum to achieve the ICPD Goals
8. Every country should design a clear mechanism of tracking the aspects agreed upon in the protocols they sign to keep judging how countries have reached on the aspirations of treaties. E.g. Maputo Declaration

Key Challenges Faced in the Study Visit

Ghana was undergoing an electioneering period. All the politicians and leaders were in campaigns. It was a bit hard to reach out to respondents who are to be involved in the campaign process. This explains why the team never interacted with the speaker and the Executive Committee of the Ghana Parliamentarian Forum on Population and Development

Appendix 1: List of Participants

No.	Name	Title	Country
1.	Hon Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo	MP/President	Ghana
2.	Hon Sylvia Mthethwa	MP	Eswatini
3.	Hon Elsie Pokossy Doumbe	MP	Cameroun
4.	Hon Majur Babur Ajal	MP	South Sudan
5.	Hon Akol Anthony	MP	Uganda
6.	Hon Ojara Martin Mapenduzi	MP	Uganda
7.	Musa Wamala Buyungo	Coordinator APFPD/FPA	Uganda

Appendix 2: PROGRAMME

Study tour by the ExCom of the African Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development 13-16TH NOVEMBER, 2024			
Time	Activity	Location	Proposed Issues for Discussion
Day 1: Wednesday 13th November			
	Arrival and pick up from the Airport	Kotoka International Airport	Hotel of Residence
Day 2: Thursday 14th November			
8:30	Pick up from the hotel	Parliament House	
9:00–9:30	Courtesy call to the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament & the Leadership of Parliament	Parliament House	Mission Objectives and Advocacy for Legislation on Selected Population Issues
9:40-10:40	Meeting with the Population and Development Caucus in Parliament	Parliament House	Discuss population-related legislation and advocacy for development; role of the population caucus in parliament
11:00-12:00	UNFPA Country Office	UNFPA Office	Advocacy for Family Planning, Women's and Youth Empowerment in Ghana
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	Restaurant/Hotel	
13:30-14:30	National Population Council	NPC secretariat	Engage in national population policies and strategies
15:00-16:00	A joint Visit to the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG)	PPAG Office	Engage in community reproductive health initiatives for PPAG,
16:15-17:00	Marie Stope International (MSI).	MSI Office	Family planning on the National Health Insurance Scheme and promoting discussions on sexual and reproductive health
	End of Day 1 & Dinner	Hotel/Restaurant	Social and networking dinner
Day 3: Friday 15th November			
9:30–10:30	Regional Institute for Population Studies, University of Ghana	University of Ghana	Presentation on population research and socio-economic development
11:00-12:00	National Development Planning Commission	NDPC Office	National Development Planning Processes and integration of population issues-DD
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	Restaurant/Hotel	

13:30-14:30	Women in Law and Development in Africa-Ghana (WiLDAF)	WiLDAF Office, Accra.	To discuss women's access to justice, Child Marriage and Gender -Based Violence (GBV) programs in Ghana.
15:00-16:00	Visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum	High Street, Accra	History of the Ghana through the Independence
17:30	End of Day 2 Recap	Hotel/Restaurant	Social and networking
Day 4: Saturday 16th November			
	Departures and pick up from the hotel Airport	Hotel	Departure from Accra

Appendix 3: Gallery



Delegates at National Population



the Youth Wing of UNFPA Ghana Offices



At National Population Council



Delegation at National Development Planning Offices