



## CONCEPT NOTE

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Population Research Conference on

# “Impact of COVID-19 on Pakistan's Population: Challenges and Recommendations for Meeting Unmet Family Planning Demands”

DECEMBER 22-24, 2020

Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi (Hybrid Mode: In-Person and virtual)

**Conference Objective:** To provide a forum to discuss policy and implementation challenges of population and development agenda in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

**Topic of Conference:** The Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) is holding its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Population Research Conference, “Impact of COVID-19 on Pakistan's Population: Challenges and recommendations for meeting unmet family planning demands.” The conference will explore the following sub-themes:

- Bringing demography into economic planning: the critical role of demographic dimensions in planning during COVID-19.
- Reimagining access to family planning: safeguarding rights to healthy and productive life during crises.
- Education of girls in Pakistan, during and after COVID-19.
- Is language a barrier to learning in Pakistan? Looking beyond COVID-19.
- Supply chain technology and system strengthening solutions for the Government of Pakistan on COVID-19.
- Causes of maternal mortality and morbidity in Pakistan.



The PAP has been consistently organizing annual population research conferences over the last 20 years. The conferences are held in a public or private university, covering all provinces, to generate interest and dialogue on population and development issues among Pakistan's aspiring future generations. The conference provides a platform to bring together research scholars, policymakers, donors, programs managers, civil society organizations, and public office holders from all levels of governments to university campuses across Pakistan. Conference proceedings are published yearly, and have been awarded and recognized by the Library of Congress, United States of America. The PAP has individual, student, and institutional members and conferences are held in collaboration with its development partners, most notably, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Given the closure of academic institutions and risk mitigation plan for COVID-19, this year's conference will be conducted in a hybrid format of both virtual and in-person sessions. Although this year's conference will entail minimum physical presence, the new adaptive strategy created an opportunity to organize sessions in different regions of Pakistan.

**PAP's mandate and context to conference:** Since its inception, the Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) maintains a history and a mandate to highlight the reciprocal relationship between population and social development. At the dawn of PAP's third decade, we pledge to continue and foster our mandate with the same zeal that our founding members showed 20 years ago. Our annual conferences have covered a wide range of topics, which have a lasting impact on the health and economic productivity of present and future generations. We will continue to uphold that population is central to social development.

The burgeoning population of Pakistan, the denominator in nearly all human or social development indicators, erodes progress and resources. Thereby, there is a need to fully integrate people science (demography) in the dynamics of age structure, territorial distribution, population composition and growth in every aspect of economic and social planning in Pakistan. The PAP and its members, strive to look beyond indicators and aim to influence Pakistan's economic planners by highlighting the simplest and shortest route to social development. It is population and the volunteer family planning to properly space children birth with a willing mind and healthy body.

In addition to maintaining our efforts on **population influencing** policies, the PAP recently developed a policy-action note for Strategic Policy Planning Cell (SPPC) with a focus on the need to make **population responsive** policies. The population responsive policies respond to the predicament of out-of-school children, particularly girls, and equity challenges in marginalized geographical areas and groups, who live beyond the reach of public services.

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