



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
COMMISSION ON POPULATION
Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City

PRESS RELEASE

June 5 is World Environment Day

Countries around the globe gear towards the celebration of the World Environment Day on June 5, with the theme “Kick the Carbon Habit: Towards a Low Carbon Economy”

Human-induced climate change which in turn increases the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) trapped in the atmosphere is such an alarming situation. Other factors that affect climate change include land use, ozone depletion, animal agriculture, and deforestation.

In the Philippines, population and development advocates are to take this event a timely opportunity to raise people’s awareness about climate change, highlighting the close interrelationship of environment and population variables.

The Commission on Population (POPCOM) and its partner agencies such as DILG, DSWD, DENR, NNC and other NGOs have crafted the PHE framework, linking Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) aimed at addressing the concerns of a healthy population and a livable environment where the population can fully reap the rewards of the land, water, and air -- all of which form part of the total environment. The PHE program rests on the principle of community mobilization and involvement.

POPCOM Executive Director Tomas M. Osias, in explaining the PHE framework, commented that, “the larger the population, the greater pressure on the environment since there is a greater demand for environmental goods and services giving lesser time for the natural resources to regenerate. This is where community interventions, specifically on health, population, and environment, is necessary to effect social change in any given locality.”

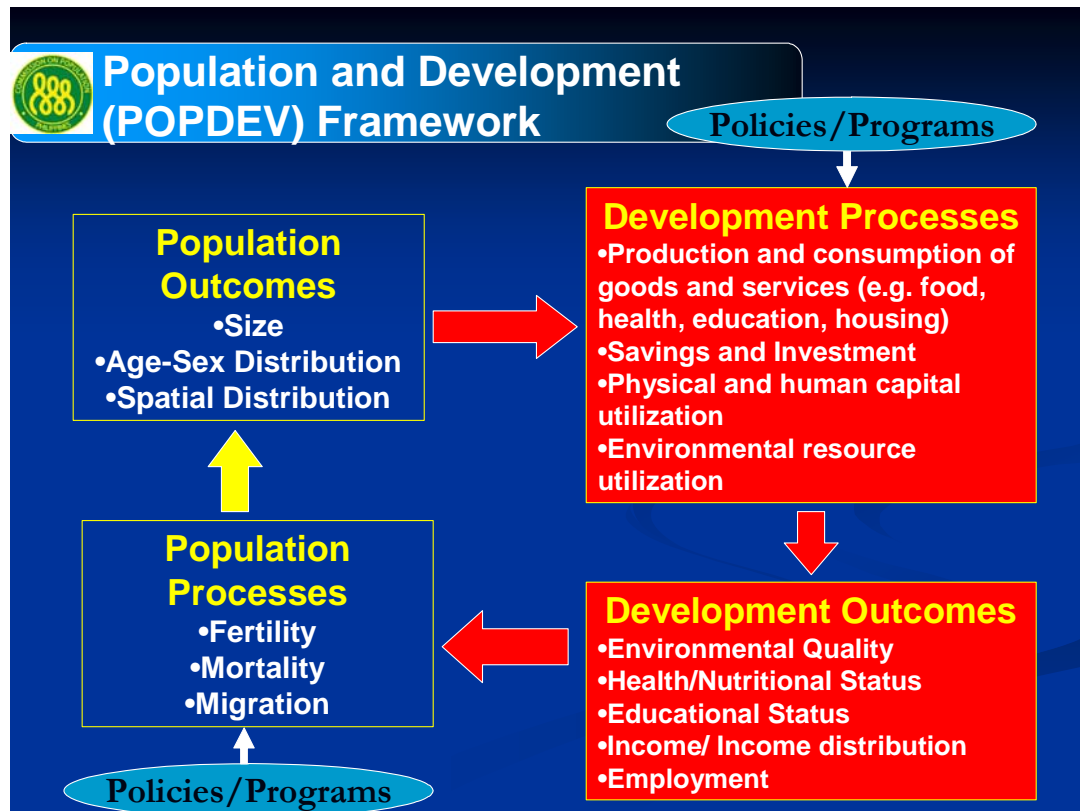
POPCOM, through the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has chosen the municipality of Bontoc in Mountain Province, being one of the 20 poorest provinces in the country, -- as a venue for the celebration of World Environment Day.

The municipality of Bontoc is the capital of Mountain Province, a landlocked province in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), covering a land area of 251,778 hectares. The province is characterized by rugged terrain, river valleys, and massive forests. The human factor, particularly in Mountain Province, is a vital consideration thus, programs and activities are being lined up to inculcate awareness and draw a unified action towards addressing the issues on environment and its interrelated factors such as population and health.

Activities being set in place include an orientation/workshop for multi-sectoral groups -- local government officials, youth, NGOs, among others – aimed at identifying issues on PHE in Mountain Province, as well as identifying and mapping out concrete policy and program agenda/recommendations in addressing PHE concerns. Other activities include tree-planting among the participants of the orientation/workshop, ceremonial signing of Implementing Rules and Regulation of the Provincial RH ordinance, and a press conference on June 6 in Baguio City.#

TOMAS M. OSIAS
Executive Director
Commission on Population

The POPDEV Framework



To put into context the Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) linkages, we have adopted the population and development interrelationships (POPDEV) framework.

The POPDEV framework basically illustrates the interaction of population and development variables categorized into outcomes and processes. It is based on the basic principle that population factors affects development variables and vice-versa.

Population processes such as fertility, mortality and migration (birth, death and movement of people), determine population outcomes like size, age and sex composition and spatial distribution of people.

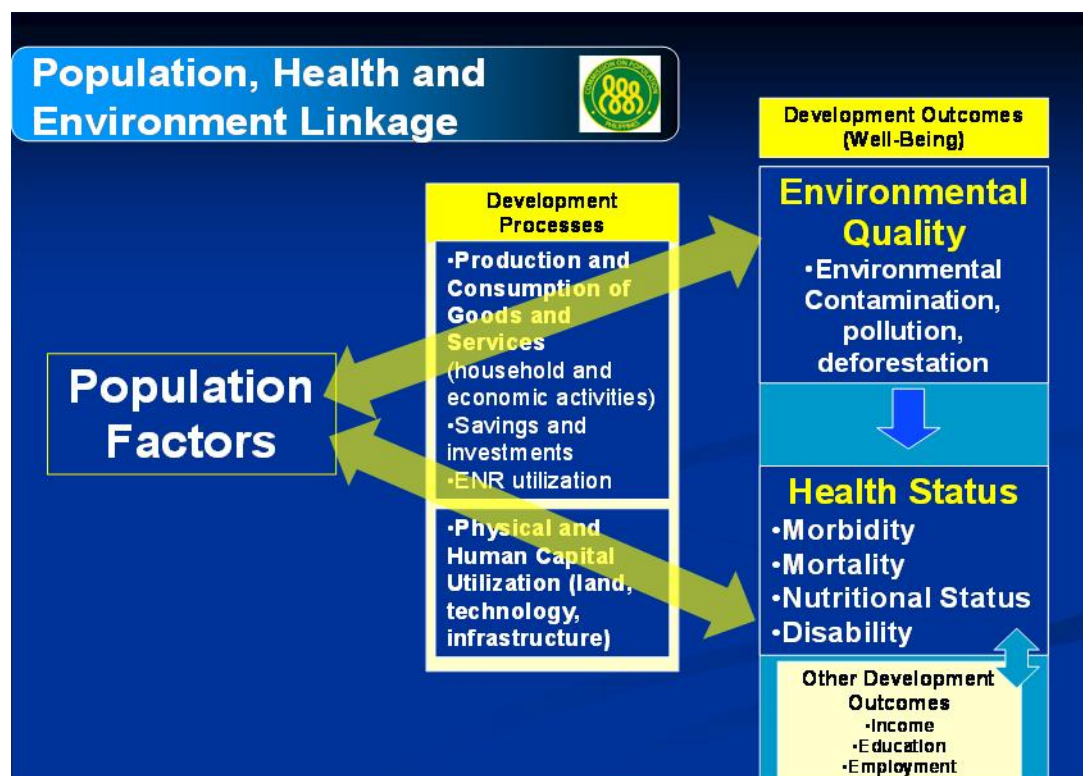
Population outcomes, on the other hand, affects development processes such as production and consumption of goods and services, savings and investments, physical capital utilization and environmental resource utilization. These development processes directly affect development outcomes such as environmental quality, health status, educational level, income and employment status. Development outcomes are also considered as indicators for well-being which is defined as the capacity to achieve a better quality of life.

For example, the size of a family affects its capacity to invest and consume health goods and services and eventually its health status. As studies show, smaller family size provides greater chances for its members to be healthy and educated compared to larger family size due to its lessened capacity to allocate limited resources for every family members.

Development outcomes, in turn, affect population processes. The income, educational and health status of an individual or household, for example, affects fertility and migration decisions.

Lastly, any policy and programs formulated to achieve any desired development objectives and goals will influence the various population and development processes. For example, a population policy that aims to achieve a rational balance between population and available resources should influence **fertility behaviors** (population process) as well as **natural resource utilization patterns and practices** of people (development process). This framework, therefore, also show where could policy and program interventions could be effected.

The PHE Framework



Now, using the same principles of interactions between the variables of population and development, we would like to zero-in on the inter-linkages of population, health and environment. We simplify population outcomes and processes into population factors. As explained earlier, population factors indirectly affect development outcomes, also considered as indicators for well-being which include environmental quality and health status.

The framework shows that population factors indirectly affects environmental quality through development processes which include production and consumption or utilization of environmental goods and services, and physical capital utilization (e.g. land, capital and technology). In other words, what directly affects environmental quality are development processes or may be called as lifestyle or human economic activities. Population factors provide pressure on environment at the demand side through its consumption patterns, frequency and technology of utilizing resources. The larger the population, the greater pressure on the environment since there is a greater demand for environmental goods and services giving lesser time for the natural resources to regenerate.

On the other hand, environmental quality directly affects health status as one of the indicators of well-being. As established by empirical evidences, one of the determinants of health outcomes is environmental factor such as environmental contamination, water and air quality and other related factors.

Moreover, what this framework uniquely shows is the indirect interconnection of population factors with health status. Population factors serves as a demand variable for the utilization of health services. The more people there are, the more investments needed for health services. In turn, the health or nutritional status of women determines her fertility decisions.

Furthermore, the framework also shows the interactions of other development outcome indicators with health status and environmental quality. With this interconnection we can contextualize, for example, the effect of poverty as indicated by income on health and environment and vice-versa.

In summary, what the framework shows is that PHE framework is essentially about people's well-being and development.#