Kenya’s new Population Policy for National Development recognizes the importance of population dynamics in national development, and accelerates progress toward achieving universal access to reproductive health.
Challenges
An earlier effort to develop a national population policy failed due to lack of support among key stakeholders, as well as misunderstanding about the policy’s goals and strategies.

Policy Innovations
Kenya’s National Council for Population and Development launched a three-year consultative process to engage stakeholders in developing a visionary new policy on population and reproductive health. The consultative process included:
- A three-day conference gathering more than 1,300 national leaders from the government, private sector and civil society
- A forum that engaged 185 stakeholders, including Members of Parliament and development partners
- Meetings with district and regional leaders, including traditional village heads
- Ongoing nationwide mobilization and advocacy

These efforts produced a comprehensive Population Policy for National Development (PPND). This farsighted policy recognizes the impact of rapid population growth on Kenya’s development goals, and proposes a multisectoral approach to address these concerns, with a focus on family planning. And, unlike previous population policies, the PPND includes detailed cost estimates and resource mobilization plans, with the majority of funding to come from the Government of Kenya. Approved by Parliament in October 2012, the PPND is a component of Kenya’s broader development plan, Vision 2030. The PPND encompasses many aspects of demography and reproductive health, including:
- Reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Population structures and vulnerable groups
- Population and socio-economic development
- Planning and environmental sustainability
- Gender equity, equality and women’s empowerment

Results
Successful implementation of the PPND is expected to produce results including:
- Reduced fertility and mortality rates
- A substantial increase in resources available for national development
- Enhanced youth skill development and utilization
- Greater environmental sustainability

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