

To mark World Population Day, the United Nations in partnership with the Austrian Cultural Forum and the Goethe Institute, present the film:

Population Boom

with an introduction by Sietske Steneker



Sietske Steneker is the Director of the Brussels office of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Ms. Steneker, a national of the Netherlands, has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras and El Salvador. She holds Masters Degrees in International Law (from Leiden University, the Netherlands) and Public Health in Developing Countries (from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK).

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Message for World Population Day 2014

The world today has its largest generation of youth in history – 1.8 billion young people, mostly in developing countries – with enormous potential to help tackle the major challenges facing humanity. But too many are denied their rightful opportunities to get a quality education, find decent work, and participate in the political life of their societies. World Population Day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to help young people unleash progress across society.

The solution lies in investments in health, education, training and employment for young people as they undergo the critical transition to adulthood. This will improve prospects for their lives and our common future.

On this World Population Day, I call on all with influence to prioritize youth in development plans, strengthen partnerships with youth-led organizations, and involve young people in all decisions that affect them. By empowering today's youth, we will lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future for generations to come.

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This will be the last screening before our summer break. We look forward to welcoming you to *Caricaturistes - fantassins de la Démocratie* on 18 September at the Bozar

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WORLD POPULATION DAY, 11 JULY 2014

“Investing in young people”

- Improving the living standards and well-being of a growing global population will intensify pressure on the environment. However, **environmental sustainability** is not driven by population size alone but primarily determined by consumption and production patterns.
- A change in the **consumption and production patterns** of rich and developed countries is crucial if the environment is to be protected and replenished.
- Poor countries and their populations have the **right to development**. But unless this happens in a radically different manner than has been the case for wealthier countries, it will further contribute to **climate change**.
- Development must not be solely based on increasing consumption. More inclusive and greener economic growth is needed. The ambition to **eradicate extreme poverty** and **reduce inequalities** must be at the centre of innovative and forward-looking economic policies.
- **Human rights-based approaches** will make a world of difference in improving human well-being and quality of life. Such approaches should enable couples and individuals to freely decide on the number, timing and spacing of children. This would also result in slower population growth.
- Given the critical contributions that **women and young people** can make to their economies and societies, the development of human capital requires investment in their capabilities.
- Increasing access to health and education, and achieving greater **human rights** for women and young people, including their **sexual and reproductive health and rights**, is critical for sustainable development.

Young people are central to the future development agenda. Safeguarding their rights and investing in their future by providing quality education, livelihood skills, decent employment and access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services, is essential to their development and that of their families, communities and countries.



Girls in Rajasthan, India learning to read. © Mark Tuschman/Educate Girls India