

Organisation

- PopDev is funded jointly by NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development (www.nwo.nl/wotro) and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (www.hewlett.org)
- PopDev is managed by NWO-WOTRO and runs from 2008-2012
- The programme has a budget of € 2 million
- An international advisory panel of five recognised experts in the PopDev-field (four working at knowledge and research institutes and one senior consultant) advises on proposals, progress and activities
- Decisions on research funding are taken by the WOTRO-Board
- Responsibility for the progress and quality of funded research lies with the programme leaders. Special attention is given to the quality of the partnership and to ensuring the engagement of the societal stakeholders therein.

International embedding

PopDev is a joint initiative of and is funded jointly by NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (USA). The programme is grounded in the priorities of Hewlett's Population Programme and in WOTRO's research policy and thematic framework. The Hewlett Population programme supports research funding schemes with several councils and institutes in Africa, the USA and Europe. PopDev participates in the Hewlett-initiated Community of Research Practice on Population, Reproductive Health, and Economic Development, which assures broader international embedding, networking and learning. This is further enhanced by e.g. funding the participation of PopDev-researchers in the annual Hewlett grantee meetings.

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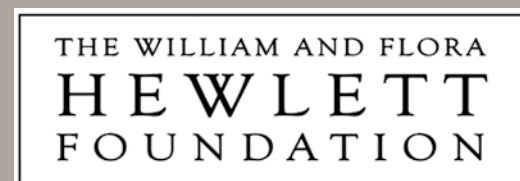
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PopDev – A research programme on Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development

Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development



PopDev is a joint initiative by NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The research programme aims to generate knowledge about the effects of population dynamics and reproductive health on different aspects of economic and social development in developing countries. The funding aims to enable high-quality scientific research, the results of which will strengthen the evidence base for policy and practice on how (investments in) population and reproductive health affect poverty, economic development and equity.

Research into population dynamics and reproductive health (P/RH) has a broad societal and policy relevance, contributing to (MDG-related) issues such as empowerment of women, maternal and child health, reduction of spread of HIV, planning of education systems and moving towards sustainable environment/human interactions. P/RH outcomes thus are an important part of human wellbeing.

Research questions

There are three main issues that guide the research:

- 1 What are the implications of projected trends in fertility and mortality for economic growth and income distribution and the incidence of poverty, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa?
- 2 How do investments in reproductive health affect economic conditions at household level (eg. in productivity, labour force participation and savings behaviour)? How do the type and organisation of reproductive health services impact their effectiveness in influencing economic conditions?
- 3 What are the effects of reproductive health interventions on the economic wellbeing of individuals? How do reproductive health interventions and their effects at the household level link to poverty/economic outcome at the macro level?

Research funding characteristics

PopDev funds integrated research programmes that work towards answering its research questions. These programmes combine multiple PhD/post-doc projects and perform high-quality innovative, interdisciplinary research. Projects are selected by holding an open call for proposals.

The principal investigator in each programme is a senior researcher from the Netherlands or from sub-Saharan Africa. The research itself is performed by a consortium of research groups from the Netherlands and developing countries (with the focus on African nations). PopDev aims to ensure that researchers work closely with societal stakeholders right from the inception phase of the research. Capacity strengthening is built in via the integration of post-doc and PhD subprojects within each programme.