

# THE POWER OF CHOICE

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION



state of world population 2018

## The State of World Population 2018

This report was developed under the auspices of the UNFPA Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships

### SENIOR RESEARCH ADVISER

Peter McDonald

### LEAD CHAPTER RESEARCHERS AND AUTHORS

John Bongaarts  
Suzana Cavanaghi  
Gavin Jones  
Gretchen Luchsinger  
Peter McDonald  
Cheikh Mbacké  
Tomas Sobotka

### UNFPA TECHNICAL ADVISERS

Alanna Armitage  
Michael Herrmann  
Eduard Mihalas  
Sandile Simelane

### EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editor:** Richard Kollodge

**Editorial associates:** Katie Madonia, Katheline Ruiz

**Executive communications adviser:** Teresa Buerkle

**Digital edition managers:** Katie Madonia, Katheline Ruiz

**Digital edition adviser:** Hanno Ranck

**Publication and web interactive design and production:** Prographics, Inc.

© UNFPA 2018

### Front cover photo credits (clockwise):

© Mark Tuschman  
© Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures  
© UNFPA/Egor Dubrovsky  
© Joshua Cogan/PAHO

### Back cover photo credit:

© UNFPA/Roger Anis

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Jeffrey Edmeades advised authors on issues of reproductive rights.

Feature stories were written by Sanne De Wilde (Bolivia), Bruna Tiussu (Brazil), Reza Sayah (Iran), Alice Oldenburg (Kenya), Nathalie Prevost (Niger), Erik Halkjaer (Sweden), Matthew Taylor (Thailand). Video and photography in support of feature stories were produced by Egor Dubrovsky (Belarus), Sanne De Wilde and Pep Bonet (Bolivia), Deborah Klempous (Brazil), Roger Anis (Egypt), Reza Sayah (Iran), Alice Oldenburg (Kenya), Ollivier Girard (Niger), Melker Dahlstrand (Sweden), and Matthew Taylor and Varin Sachdev (Thailand). The editors thank UNFPA Regional Communications Advisors who coordinated production of feature content: Celine Adotevi, Tamara Alrifai, Jacob Eben, Jens-Hagen Eschenbacher, Adebayo Fayoyin, Alvaro Serrano and Roy Wadia. Other UNFPA colleagues orchestrated or oversaw feature productions in Belarus (Katsiaryna Mikhadziuk, Hanna Leudanskaya), Bolivia (Ana Angarita, Marisol Murillo, Luigi Burgoa, Gerberth Camargo, María Eugenia Villalpando, Francesca Palestra, Guadalupe Valdes), Brazil (Paola Bello), Egypt (Aleksandar Sasha Bodoiroza, Merhan Ghaly), Iran (Nazanin Akhgar), Kenya (Korir Kigen, Douglas Waudu), Niger (Souleymane Saddi Maazou), Sweden (Pernille Fenger, Mette Strandlod, Patricia Grundberg) and Thailand (Kullwadee Kai Sumalnop, Wassana Im-em). Thanks also to Hans Linde and Julia Schalk of RFSU, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, for their support for the feature from Sweden.

The Population and Development Branch of UNFPA aggregated regional data in the indicators section of this report. Source data for the report's indicators were provided by the Population and Development Branch of UNFPA, the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization.

### MAPS AND DESIGNATIONS

The designations employed and the presentation of material in maps in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. A dotted line approximately represents the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.

# UNFPA

## Ensuring rights and choices for all

# THE POWER OF CHOICE

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND  
THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION



1

## The global trend towards smaller families

page 12

2

## A legacy of large families

page 28

3

## Departures from the typical fertility transition

page 50



# 4

## Many paths to one destination

page 68



# 5

## Creating conditions for parenthood

page 92



# 6

## Everyone has the right to choose

page 120







# Foreword

## CHOICE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

It can rapidly improve the well-being of women and girls, transform families and societies, and accelerate global development.

The extent to which couples and individuals have real choices about whether and when to have children, and how many children to have, also has a direct impact on fertility levels. Where people are able to make these decisions for themselves, they tend to choose smaller families. Where choices are constrained, they tend to have families that are either large or very small, sometimes with no children at all.

No country can yet claim to have made reproductive rights a reality for all. Choices are limited for far too many women. And this means that there are still millions of people who are having more—or fewer—children than they would like, with implications not only for individuals, but also for communities, institutions, economies, labour markets and entire nations.

For some, the pursuit of reproductive rights is thwarted by health systems that fail to provide essential services, such as contraceptives. For others, economic barriers, including poor-quality, low-paying jobs and an absence of childcare, make it next to impossible to start or expand a family. Underlying these and other obstacles is persistent gender inequality, which denies women the power to make fundamental decisions in life.

In the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, governments committed to enabling people to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health as a matter of fundamental human rights. Now, almost 25 years later, this continues to require ensuring that individuals have access to the means to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reinforces these principles by making reproductive health and rights a specific aim. In fact, reproductive rights are integral to realizing all the Sustainable Development Goals. **THAT IS THE POWER OF CHOICE.**

The way forward is the full realization of reproductive rights, for every individual and couple, no matter where or how they live, or how much they earn. This includes dismantling all the barriers—whether economic, social or institutional—that inhibit free and informed choice.

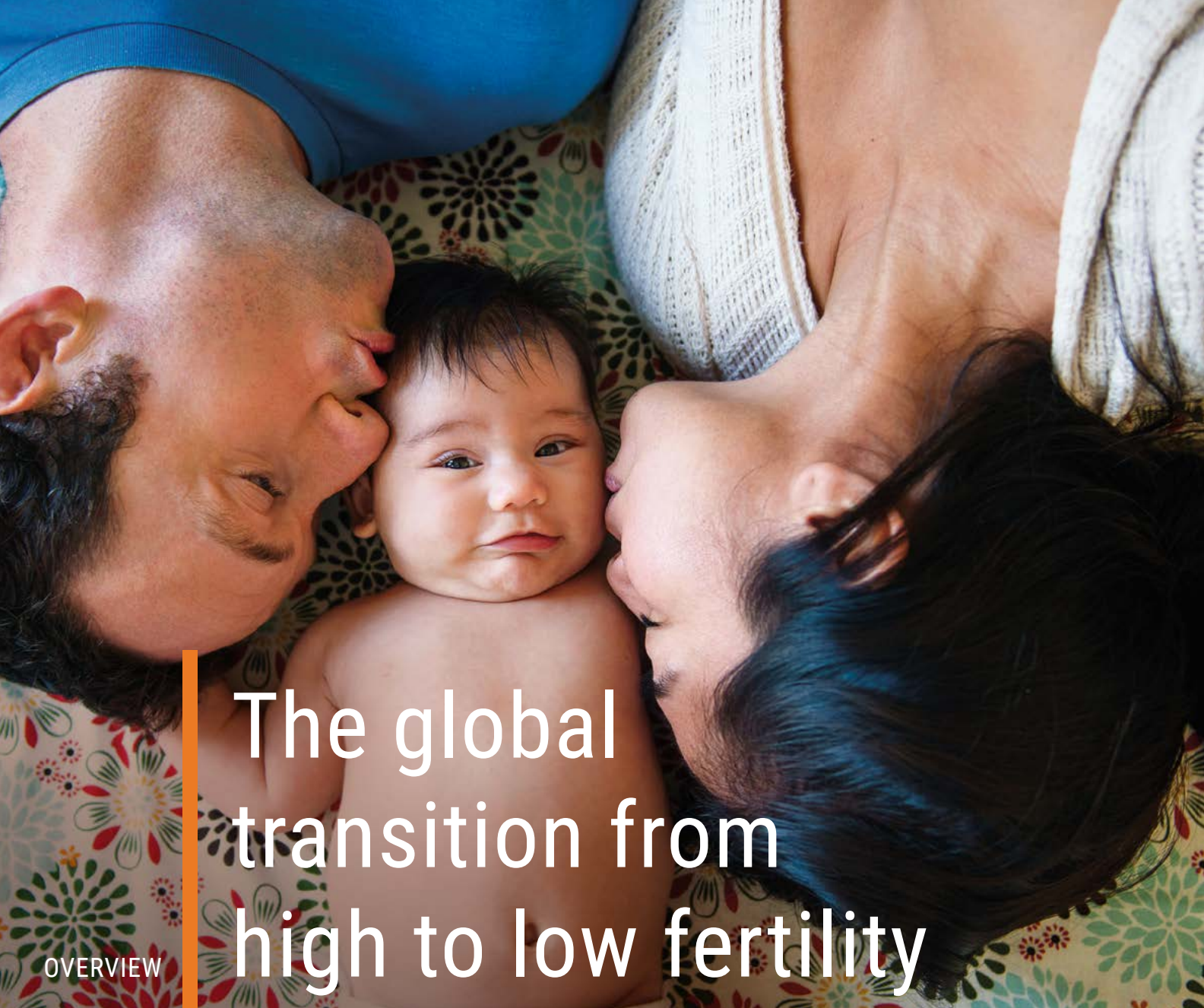
In the end, our success will not just come in reaching what we imagine is ideal fertility. The real measure of progress is people themselves: especially the well-being of women and girls, their enjoyment of their rights and full equality, and the life choices that they are free to make.

**Dr. Natalia Kanem**

Executive Director

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund





OVERVIEW

# The global transition from high to low fertility

© Layland Masuda/Getty Images

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_19970](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_19970)

