

PANDEMIC PIVOT:

ACHIEVING TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020 REPORT



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“

If we work together in unity and solidarity, these rays of hope can reach around the world. That is the lesson of this most difficult year... both climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic are crises that can only be addressed by everyone together – as part of a transition to an inclusive and sustainable future. ... Together, let us make peace among ourselves and with nature, tackle the climate crisis, stop the spread of COVID-19 and make 2021 a year of healing.

”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres¹

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080962>

Message from the Executive Director

When a new coronavirus was first identified in December 2019, it would have been difficult to imagine the scale of disruption and devastation that virus would ultimately cause. By the end of 2020, more than 82 million people worldwide had been infected and 1.8 million had succumbed to the disease.² The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities and exacerbated inequalities within and between countries, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable among us particularly hard.

As the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, UNFPA seeks to end unmet need for family planning, end preventable maternal death, and end gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has not changed these transformative aspirations, yet its impact has set back years of progress. As the crisis unfolded during the course of 2020, UNFPA worked in concert with the United Nations country teams and partners on the ground to coordinate and respond within the context of our mandate. Institutional memory, in-house humanitarian expertise and emergency plans and structures enabled us to quickly identify areas of greatest need and potential intervention.

Around the world, UNFPA led GBV prevention efforts and conducted rapid assessments to map services and identify women and girls at greatest risk. Work plans shifted, funds were reprogrammed and an appeal was launched to raise additional financial resources to respond to the crisis. Within the agency, experienced humanitarian colleagues mobilized and provided supportive guidance, but the enormity of this global crisis called for all hands on deck.

As we continue to respond to the unfolding emergency and grapple with its fallout, we pay tribute to those we have lost. We honour the caregivers, health-care workers and those who have ensured the delivery of necessary equipment and supplies. We are grateful for the tools and technology that have facilitated the ongoing work to provide life-saving sexual and reproductive health services and to defend the rights, safety and dignity of women and girls. We celebrate the collaboration and innovation that this period of rapid transformation brought forth.

New ways of working that have proven effective throughout

the pandemic are informing the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. Young people have played a key role in our outreach in 2020, providing volunteer support, technological expertise and technical advice. Data gleaned through rapid assessments and a decades-long history of demographic expertise have informed rapid response and enabled us to reach the last mile. Collaboration with radically new partners opened up new paths to the future we envision: a future in which no woman dies giving life, every birth is wanted and every young person can fulfil their potential.

Our forward march continues.

Dr. Natalia Kanem

United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director of UNFPA

² <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

FIGURE 1. UNFPA KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

87%

Of country COVID response plans prioritized action to address GBV



Procured quality-assured personal protective equipment (PPE) for front line health workers worth

\$29 million



83%

Of countries included SRH in their national response plans



Nearly

50 million

women and young people reached with sexual and reproductive health services



35

Global and regional level technical notes and guidance released to support the COVID-19 response



Socioeconomic impact assessments (SEIAs) conducted in

56 countries



Women subjected to violence that have accessed the Essential Services Package

690,694



Supported training of

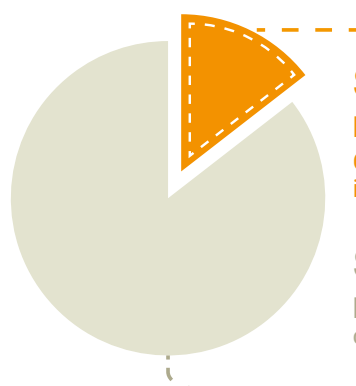
478,000

health workers to provide COVID-19 related services



Resource mobilization data

As of 31 December 2020, UNFPA co-financing revenue was above the target of \$650 million, of which approximately \$94.8 million (or 14.5 per cent) was earmarked for COVID-19 response interventions. Of approximately \$270 million received for humanitarian action, about \$72.6 million was for COVID-19.



\$94.8 million | or 14.5 PER CENT
COVID-19 response interventions

\$650 million UNFPA co-financing revenue

71%

Of countries included the health needs of older persons into their national COVID-19 response plans



1,503

Youth organizations were empowered in **66 countries** to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic



Overview

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. It promotes the implementation of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development and, together with United Nations agencies and other development partners, supports the United Nations Member States to progress towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As the COVID-19 pandemic gained momentum in 2020, UNFPA implemented the third year of its Strategic Plan 2018–2021. The plan's targets are three transformative results to be achieved by 2030: ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning, and ending GBV and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child marriage.

UNFPA adapted and responded quickly to the global emergency, focusing immediately on maintaining the provision of SRH information and services and on mitigating the impact of the pandemic on progress towards the three transformative results. In April 2020, UNFPA rolled out its Global Response Plan³ to the COVID-19 pandemic, comprising three strategic priorities: (a) continuity of SRH services, including protection of the health workforce; (b) addressing GBV and harmful practices; and (c) ensuring the supply of contraceptives and reproductive health commodities. The plan also identified as accelerators: (a) leaving no one behind; (b) data; (c) risk communication and community engagement; and (d) youth engagement to guide the plan and engage young people in the response.

In line with the Global Response Plan, UNFPA country programmes reprogrammed and repurposed resources to address the vast, emergent needs, and adapted programmes to provide continuity. In the early stages of the pandemic, UNFPA issued operational, programmatic and technical guidance to its regional and country offices, particularly regarding reprogramming, repurposing and the reprioritization of planned activities to ensure that interventions were COVID-19 sensitive and integrated an immediate humanitarian response with early and longer-term recovery action. Many of these activities revolved around ensuring adequate protective equipment and prevention measures were in place, leveraging public-health education opportunities at every possible juncture, and educating health-care workers and the public about how to protect themselves and their communities from COVID-19. UNFPA demonstrated an acute awareness of and sensitivity to the power of data in emergencies, as well as a unique

understanding of the mental health needs brought on by the stress and isolation of this challenging period.

UNFPA developed a COVID-19 data framework to monitor the progress and results in the five areas. Data collected through the COVID-19 framework, paired with annual reports from UNFPA regional and country offices and data gathered through additional United Nations and national government assessments, surveys and reporting, reveal the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations during the 2020 calendar year. They also shed light on the overall impact of the virus on achievement of the three transformative results. For example, early in the pandemic, estimations were made that interruptions in access to family planning globally would result in millions of unintended pregnancies. These predictions were made based on certain assumptions of lockdown durations and lack of access to contraceptive commodities. However, as the pandemic unfolded, service interruptions proved to be sporadic rather than steady, and varied from one country to another. The multifaceted nature of the impact globally, encompassing social, economic, political, health and gender arenas, complicated our attempts at impact assessment.

Analysis of the 2020 results revealed that in spite of the pandemic-related disruptions, UNFPA made good progress toward the Strategic Plan's commitments. By the end of 2020, 71 per cent of UNFPA programme countries had a functional, multisectoral coordination mechanism to enable sexual and reproductive health interventions to respond to the pandemic. Seventy-two per cent of countries had a coordination mechanism for gender-based violence, and 63 per cent had a multisectoral working group to respond to mental health and psychosocial support needs. Through coordinated action and collaboration with partner agencies, governments and implementing partners, UNFPA was able to deliver planned results, providing life-saving care and supplies, and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the achievements of UNFPA in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; the report also illustrates the challenges and lessons learned through the pandemic. The greatest lesson learned through this challenging year is the importance of working together, of sharing information and resources. This report captures the story of how UNFPA has adapted, how the pandemic has impacted its goals, and how the lessons learned will be used to advance the UNFPA mission in the future.

3 <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-pandemic-unfpa-global-response-plan>

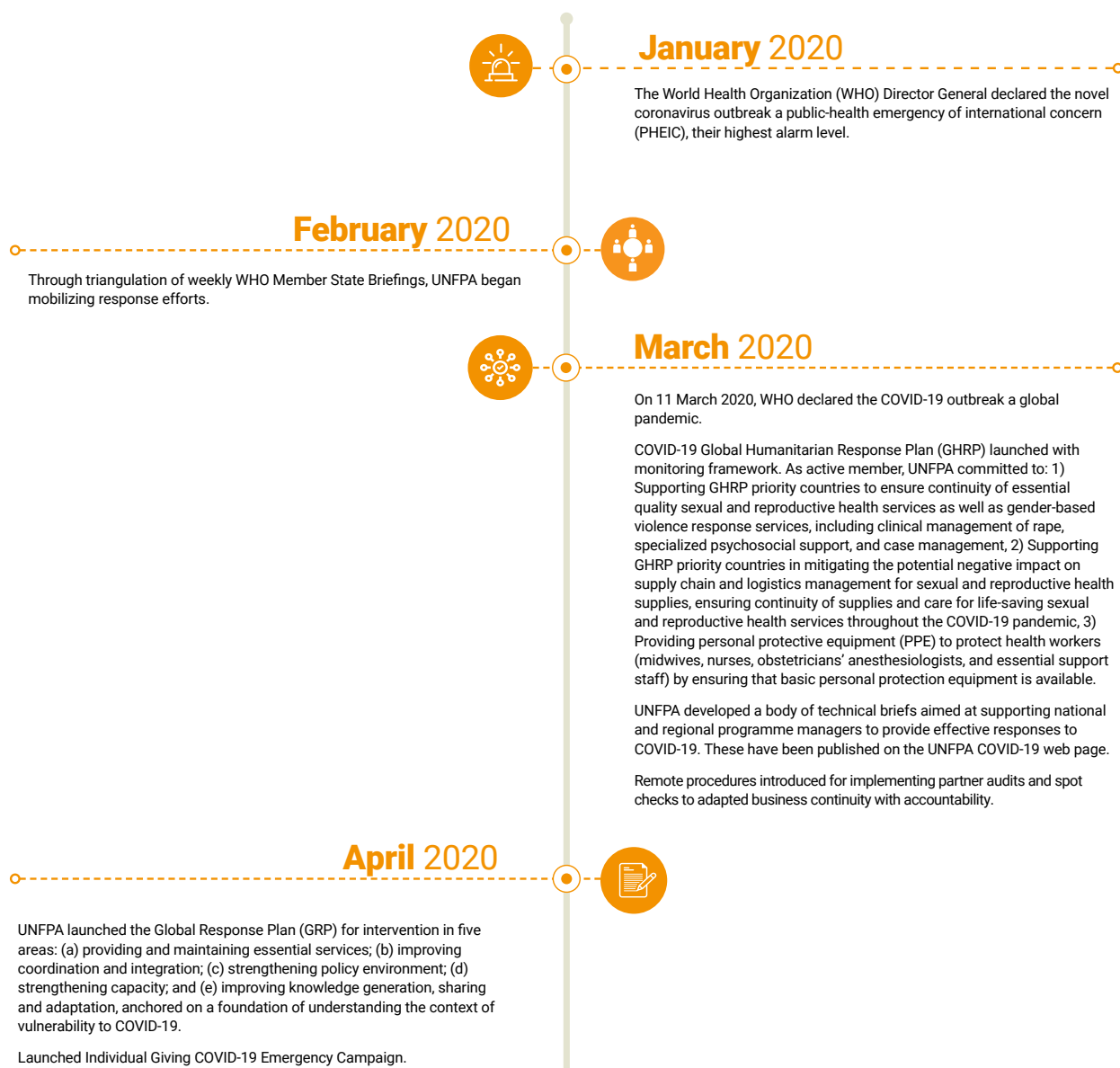
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FIGURE 2: UNFPA GLOBAL RESPONSE TIMELINE



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_20158

