

INVESTING IN MATERNAL HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

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Health and economic benefits from investing in the achievement of three transformative results by UNFPA in the Pacific and Caribbean



● Ending preventable maternal deaths ● Ending the unmet need for family planning ● Ending gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation

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This publication focuses on new research to estimate the costs associated with achieving UNFPA's three transformative results by 2030: (a) ending preventable maternal deaths, (b) ending the unmet need for family planning, (c) ending gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation.

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Dr. Nick Scott

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Contact information:

United Nations Population Fund

605 Third Avenue

New York, New York 10158

+1-212-963-6518

psd@unfpa.org

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FOREWORD

In the quarter century since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the global mobilization for sexual and reproductive health has greatly advanced the fulfillment of the ICPD promise; and yet, many women and girls are still left behind. At the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, acknowledging that there is still much work to be done in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the global community rallied behind the three transformative results set forth by the United Nations Population Fund: ending the unmet need for family planning, ending preventable maternal deaths, ending gender-based violence and all harmful practices against women and girls.

The need for acceleration towards reaching these transformative results is aggravated in small island developing states, where developing communities are particularly vulnerable to the direct and indirect effects of climate change, and requires prompt mobilization of flexible funding to enable adaptation to contextual changes. This investment case considers the potential impact, investment requirements and return on investment for scenarios to meet coverage targets by 2030.

Dr. Jennifer Butler

Director and Representative
UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

The evidence presented herein accounts for the disruptions and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and makes the case for targeting synergetic interventions, such as maternal health and contraceptive prevalence, and favoring scaling up with a focus on efficiency and cost-savings rather than a more comprehensive, less focused, approach. These estimates aim to illustrate that reaching coverage targets in the Pacific and the Caribbean is not only possible, but affordable, through the prioritization of family planning and maternal health services.

In the long-term, the economic benefits of ensuring that all women have the autonomy to plan and space pregnancies, that no woman dies of preventable maternal complications, and that girls are enabled to complete their schooling and join the job market are quantifiable and, over time, will far exceed the investment made towards achieving our transformative results. Since the ICPD, we have learned that governments and donors must seize the opportunity to “create financing momentum” around these targets in order to achieve them, and, while the costs of achieving the three zeros will be high, the benefits will be far greater.

Alison Drayton

Director and Representative
UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean

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