UNFPA

GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY

2018–2021

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction 5
Approach and structure of the Strategy 6
UNFPA's mandate and global commitments 7
UNFPA's comparative advantages to achieve gender equality 8
Achievements and challenges. 10

2. Objectives, Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs 12
Objectives. 12
Priorities. 12
Outcomes and outputs 13

OUTCOME 3 13
Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and reproductive rights are advanced in development and humanitarian settings

Outputs that support Outcome 3 13

- **Output 9**: Strengthened policy, legal and accountability frameworks to advance gender equality and empower women and girls to exercise their reproductive rights and to be protected from violence and harmful practices 13
- **Output 10**: Strengthened civil society and community mobilization to eliminate discriminatory gender and sociocultural norms affecting women and girls 14
- **Output 11**: Increased multisectoral capacity to prevent and address gender-based violence using a continuum approach in all contexts, with a focus on advocacy, data, health and health systems, psychosocial support and coordination 14
- **Output 12**: Strengthened response to eliminate harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and son preference 16

Other key areas of gender work: Strengthened capacities on developing gender responsive data, gender statistics, evidenced-based advocacy/dialogues and gender mainstreaming to enable women and adolescent girls to realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights 16

Mainstreaming gender in policy and programme 17

OUTCOME 1 17
Every woman, adolescent and youth everywhere, especially those furthest behind, has utilized integrated sexual and reproductive health services and exercised reproductive rights, free of coercion, discrimination and violence

Outputs that support Outcome 1 . . . . . **18**

- **Output 1**: Enhanced capacities to develop and implement policies, including financial protection mechanisms, that prioritize access to information and services for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for those furthest behind, including in humanitarian settings 18
- **Output 2:** Strengthened capacities to provide high-quality, integrated information and services for family planning, comprehensive maternal health, sexually transmitted infections and HIV, as well as information and services that are responsive to emergencies and fragile contexts. 18
- **Output 3**: Strengthened capacities of the health workforce, especially midwives, in health management and clinical skills for high-quality and integrated sexual and reproductive health services, including in humanitarian settings 19
- **Output 4**: Strengthened capacities to effectively forecast, procure, distribute and track the delivery of sexual and reproductive health commodities, ensuring resilient supply chains 19
- **Output 5**: Improved domestic accountability mechanisms for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights through the involvement of communities and health-system stakeholders at all levels 20

OUTCOME 2 . . . . . **20**

Every adolescent and youth, in particular adolescent girls, is empowered to have access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in all contexts

Outputs that support Outcome 2 . . . . . **.21**

- **Output 6**: Young people, in particular adolescent girls, have the skills and capabilities to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and well-being 21
- **Output 7:** Policies and programmes in relevant sectors tackle the determinants of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health, development and well-being 21
- **Output 8**: Young people have opportunities to exercise leadership and participate in sustainable development, humanitarian action and in sustaining peace 21

OUTCOME 4 22
Everyone, everywhere, is counted, and accounted for, in the pursuit of sustainable development

Outputs that support Outcome 4. 22

- **Output 13**: Improved national population data systems to map and address inequalities, advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitments of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and strengthen interventions in humanitarian crises . . 22
- **Output 14**: Mainstreamed demographic intelligence to improve the responsiveness, targeting and impact of development policies, programmes and advocacy. 22

Outcomes on organizational effectiveness and efficiency 23

3. Performance monitoring framework for implementation 24
Policy and planning. 24
Accountability for results 25
The UNFPA gender marker 25
The UNFPA Gender Scorecard 26
Gender architecture and parity 27
Capacities for gender mainstreaming 28
Knowledge management and communication. 28
Financial resources 29

4. Coordination and partnerships. 30
United Nations coordination and coherence 30
Strategic partnerships 31
Gender equality and human rights 32
Joint programmes 32

5. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation 34
Reporting and assessing progress 34
Evaluation 34
Risks and mitigation 35

Annex 1: The gender equality results framework 38
Annex 2: Key global and regional commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women and adolescent girls 40
Annex 3: Key concepts related to gender equality and empowerment of women and adolescent girls 48
Annex 4: UN-SWAP 2.0. 51

Introduction

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and adolescent girls is central to the mandate of the United Nations Population Fund (the Fund) and at the heart of its work — both as a stand-alone dedicated area and as a mainstreamed approach.

The organization's Strategic Plan 2018–2021 (the Plan) is focused on achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights through three transformational goals: ending preventable maternal deaths, ending the unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation. These aims, informed by an understanding of population dynamics, human rights and cultural sensitivity, are intended to contribute to UNFPA's broader goals of accelerating progress on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda), improving the lives of all women, adolescents and youth.

The UNFPA Gender Equality Strategy 2018–2021 (the Strategy) focuses on empowering women and adolescent girls and reaffirms UNFPA's commitments to supporting the realization of international commitments and resolutions including: the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ICPD Beyond 2014 Review, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +20 review, Rio+20, the UN General Assembly (GA) resolutions addressing gender equality issues including the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and its subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security[1] and on sexual violence in armed conflict.

Building on achievements and lessons learned, from the previous Gender Equality Strategy, this 2018–2021 Strategy focuses on strengthening action-oriented institutional accountability and implementing an integrated approach that is rights-based, participatory, people-centred,

1 Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1889 (2009), 2245 (2015) on women, peace and security and 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) on sexual violence in armed conflict.

transformative, evidence- and results-based. It will:

- promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment particularly for those most left behind
- improve women's and adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- address gender-based violence and harmful practices in all contexts including child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, son preference and the undervaluing of girls
- engage men and boys
- strengthen capacities for gender data/statistics collection, analysis and use
- facilitate greater engagement with young people
- develop capacity and strengthen systems for implementing women's and adolescent girls' rights as specified in international treaties/ resolutions.

The approach to implementing the Strategy will be all-inclusive, with special attention to women and adolescent girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, marginalization and segregation due to such factors as their ethnicity, disability, migratory and indigenous status. To support the Strategy's implementation, UNFPA will strengthen capacities to collect, analyse and use a range of data relevant to gender-responsive policy, evidenced-based advocacy and dialogues, resource mobilization, programme delivery and results-based accountability.

The Strategy further reiterates UNFPA's commitment to the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).[2] It also recognizes that achieving progress on gender equality requires working with others within the UN system, Member States, the private sector, bilateral and multilateral donors, regional and sub-regional entities and civil society including faith-based organizations, young people's groups, women's groups, men and boys' networks, community opinion leaders and local community-led authorities, among others. This wider engagement will aid the principle of participation, which is a human rights-based principle key to ensuring that sound interventions and programmes are developed with the participation of historically excluded populations.

Approach and structure of the Strategy

The development of the Strategy is a contribution and complement to the implementation of the UNFPA 2018–2021 Strategic Plan.[3] The Plan affirms that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are needed to achieve universal access to SRHR; at the same time, universal access is needed to advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. The Plan uses a twin-track approach: a) mainstreaming gender throughout while, at the same time, b) having a dedicated outcome for gender equality and reproductive rights within the Plan's framework.

The Strategy further aligns with the 2030 Agenda targets as it captures key structural constraints to gender equality such as discrimination, gender-based violence and harmful practices, unpaid care work, lack of participation in decision-making and poor access to sexual and reproductive health services and the realization of reproductive rights.

2 https://www.unsystem.org/content/un-system-wide-action-plan-gender-equality-and-empowerment-women-swap

3 https://www.unfpa.org/strategic-plan-2018-2021

The Agenda calls for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence, to be achieved through:

- gender-transformative programming, community mobilization and activism
- policies and protocols that meaningfully engage men and boys as partners with women and girls including in advancing gender equality and SRHR such as achieving maternal, newborn and child health
- eliminating an unmet need for family planning, and
- ending gender-based violence and harmful practices.

Furthermore, the Agenda calls for addressing inequalities and the "leave no one behind" approach for the realization of its goals and for reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Additionally, the ICPD and Agenda 2030 call for increased investments in outcomes and outputs with very clear indicators that focus on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The value of and need for a dual strategy — targeted and mainstreamed — is validated by the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and requested by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the

- uphold UN system-wide accountability frameworks, in particular SWAP 2.0
- leverage the Fund's comparative advantage to achieve gender equality
- achieve UNFPA's corporate gender equality strategic goals and outline some together with objectives and priorities.

The Fund will continue efforts to integrate a gender equality mainstreaming perspective into all relevant programmes and institutional engagements from the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies to legal measures and resource allocations (financial, material and human).

UNFPA's mandate and global commitments

UNFPA's mandate for promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and adolescent girls is informed by key international and regional instruments, first and foremost, the ICPD Programme of Action. It is also guided by United Nations ECOSOC resolution 2008/3411,[4] which requested the UN system to adopt a results-based management framework with benchmarks and indicators for measuring progress in the application of the gender mainstreaming strategy to achieve gender equality. The resolution also calls for the inclusion of clear gender equality results and

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