



# FINANCIAL RESOURCE FLOWS FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 2012



## Foreword

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The twenty-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development commemorated this year reaffirms the groundbreaking Cairo consensus that increasing social, economic and political equality, and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is the basis for individual well-being, lower population growth and sustainable development.

The consultative ICPD review process led by the United Nations Population Fund provided ample evidence of this consensus. The ICPD Global Review Report, based on data from 176 countries, expert meetings and academic research, and a series of regional and thematic consultations, showed significant achievements over the past twenty years. Progress was made in many areas: nearly 1 billion people moved out of extreme poverty; maternal mortality worldwide declined by nearly half between 1990 and 2010; more children, especially girls, are going to school; and more women have access to education and employment.

Although progress is indeed laudable, it has been painfully uneven. The reality is that not everybody has benefited and persistent inequalities and discrimination remain. In many countries, only the wealthier segments of the population have benefited from development, with the poorest communities seeing little progress. Maternal mortality continues to remain unacceptably high in many parts of the world. Women continue to experience physical and/or sexual abuse. One in three girls in developing countries is married before the age of 18, effectively closing the door to education and other opportunities for a better life.

The sad reality is that twenty years after the ICPD, we still have a long way to go in realizing the goals and objectives agreed upon in Cairo. The ICPD Programme of Action is as relevant today as it was in 1994. We need a renewed commitment to the promises made in Cairo. We also need investments to ensure that the benefits of development reach all segments of the population, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, who have been left behind.

For the first few years after the ICPD, funding for population activities increased only negligibly and it appeared that we would never seriously begin to bridge the funding gap between resources mobilized and the Cairo financial agreements. Funding picked up as we approached the 10-year mark with sizeable increases thereafter only to slow down as the financial crisis hit the international community.

This edition of the *Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities* shows that in 2012, population assistance stood at just under US \$11.4 billion and domestic resources were estimated at almost US \$55.5 billion. Given the significant amount of work to be done to accelerate the follow-up to the ICPD Programme of Action and to ensure that all people everywhere, especially the poor, benefit equally from development, the resources on hand are inadequate to meet current needs. We urge the international community to use the twenty-year review of the ICPD as an opportunity to increase funding levels to help meet the growing needs in the four areas costed by the ICPD Programme of Action: family planning, reproductive health, STD/HIV/AIDS, and research, data, and population and development policy analysis.

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