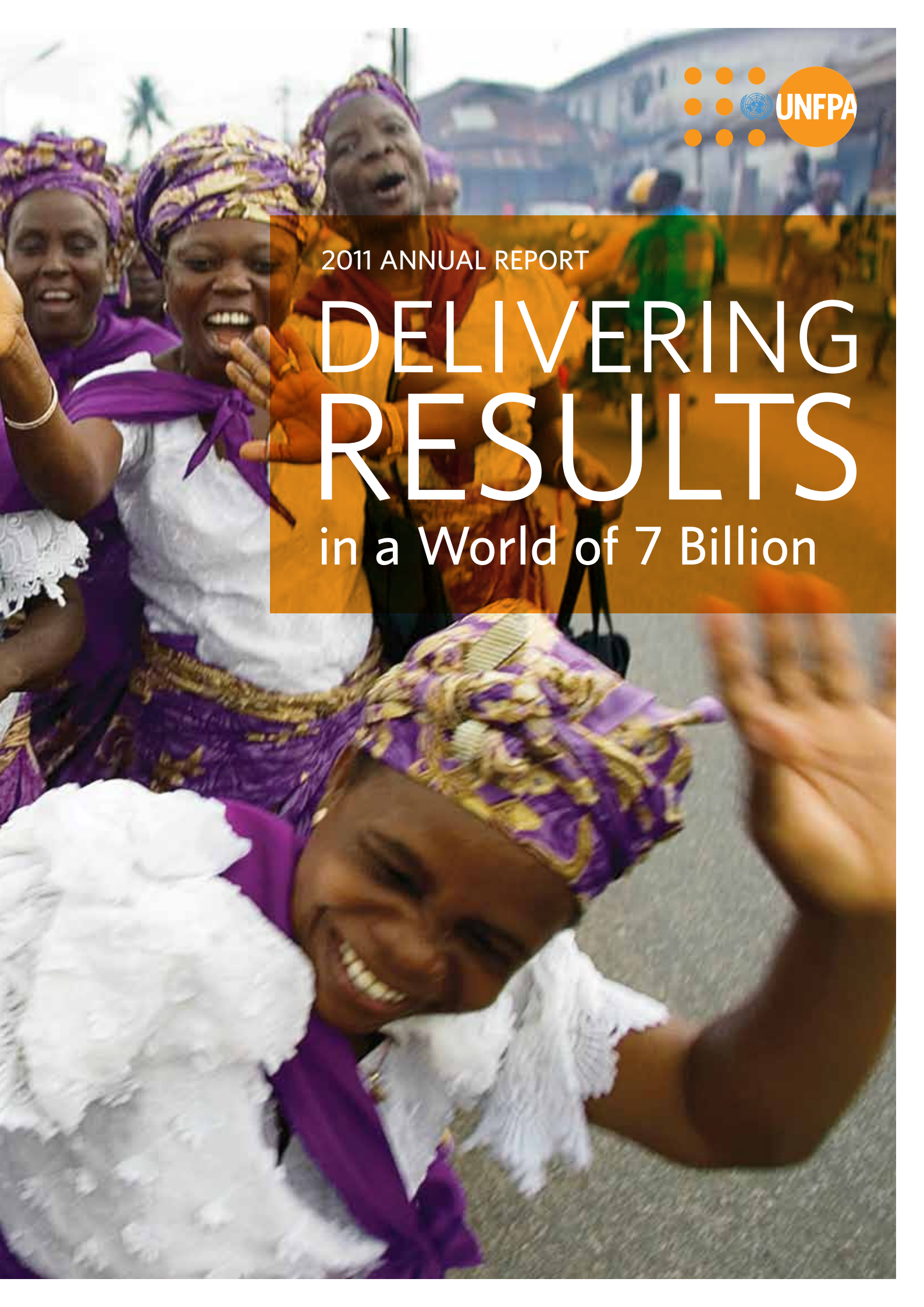




2011 ANNUAL REPORT

DELIVERING RESULTS

in a World of 7 Billion



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Foreword



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In October 2011, the 7 billionth member of the human family was born into a world of vast and unpredictable change: environmental, economic, geopolitical, technological and demographic.

The world's population has more than tripled since the United Nations was created in 1945, and our numbers keep growing. So, too, do the pressures on land, energy, food and water. The global economic crisis continues to shake businesses, governments, communities and families around the world. Joblessness is rising, and social inequalities are growing wider.

The passing of the 7 billion threshold is not about one individual or even one generation. It is a wake-up call to confront grinding poverty and inequality, a call to action to improve the health and conditions of women and girls and empower young people to realize their full potential.

Seven billion people are looking to the United Nations for solutions that address fundamental issues of security, equity and sustainable development. We must respond with compassion, courage and conviction. We must connect the dots between global health, food security, women's empowerment and the rights of young people.

This report shows how UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, helped more than 150 governments in 2011 to confront challenges and seize opportunities to work towards a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

From the Executive Director

The world's population surpassed 7 billion last year.

What does our world of 7 billion look like? How is it different from the world in the 1960s, when our numbers were half what they are today?

First, we are living longer—20 years longer on average—than we did in the middle of the last century. Our children are healthier, and more of them are surviving into adulthood. More than half of us now live in a city.

We are also younger: today there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24—the largest youth cohort in human history.

At the same time, we are older, with nearly 900 million people over the age of 60.

The picture of today's global population is a collage of diverse human experiences, trends, achievements and contradictions. Through an examination of this diversity, an accurate image of Earth's 7 billion inhabitants begins to emerge.

Some countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia have population growth rates that are outpacing economic growth, while many European countries and Japan have fertility rates so low that their governments are concerned about possible labour shortages and how these shortages might stifle economic growth.

With diverse challenges and trends such as these in mind, we must ask which actions we can take today to ensure health, prosperity, equality and environmentally sustainable development in the future.

First, we need to educate and empower girls and women to participate fully in society and ensure they have the power to make informed reproductive decisions. And whatever we do, boys and men must be a part of the solution. A future that is sustainable is one built on equal rights and opportunities.

There are still millions of adolescent girls and boys in the developing world who have little or no access to information about how to prevent pregnancies or protect themselves from HIV. There are still 80 million jobless youth. We must therefore also invest in the health, education and income-earning opportunities of the new generation. This investment would



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yield enormous returns in economic growth and development for years to come.

We also need to strengthen and expand maternal and newborn health care. Hundreds of thousands of women continue to die each year from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. This loss of life is intolerable in an age when we have the resources and the know-how to prevent these deaths.

In addition, we need to bridge the gap in access to family planning, to make sure that the 215 million women in developing countries who want to use contraceptives have access to them.

The challenges of a world of 7 billion are monumental, numerous and vexing. However, with careful planning and appropriate investments in people today, we can have thriving sustainable cities, productive labour forces that fuel economic growth, youth populations that contribute to the well-being of their societies, and communities where the elderly are productive, healthy and economically secure.

We all have a stake in the future of humanity. Every individual, every government, every business is more interconnected and interdependent than ever, so whatever each of us does now will matter to all of us long into the future. Together we can change and improve the world.

—Babatunde Osotimehin

Preparing for the Challenges of a World of 7 Billion

New population trends

There is much to celebrate in world population trends over the last 60 years, especially the average life expectancy, which leapt from about 48 years in the early 1950s to about 68 in the first decade of the new century. Infant deaths plunged from about 133 in 1,000 births in the 1950s to about 46 per 1,000 today. Immunization campaigns reduced the prevalence of childhood diseases worldwide.

In addition, since the 1960s, fertility—the number of children a woman is expected to have in her childbearing years—dropped by more than half, from about 5.0 to 2.5. This decrease is due partly to various countries' economic growth and development, but it is also the result of a complex mix of social and cultural forces including greater access by women to education, income-earning opportunities, and sexual and reproductive health care, including modern methods of family planning.

As a result of these positive social, economic and health trends, the world's population has grown rapidly, increasing by 1 billion in just the past 12 years and likely to rise another 2 billion by the middle of this century.

Much of the increase is expected to come from high-fertility countries, 39 of which are in Africa, nine in Asia, six in Oceania and four in Latin America. Asia

will remain the most populous major area in the world in the twenty-first century, but Africa is projected to gain ground as its population more than triples, with anticipated increases from 1 billion in 2011 to 3.6 billion in 2100. Europe's population is expected to peak around 2025 at 0.74 billion and decline thereafter.

At the same time, the characteristics of our global population are shifting. For example, today there are 893 million people around the world who are over the age of 60. By the middle of this century, that number will rise to 2.3 billion. About one in two people now lives in a city, and in only about 35 years, two out of three will. People under the age of 25 make up 43 per cent of the world's population, reaching as much as 60 per cent in some countries.



Our record population size may be viewed as a success for humanity. But not everyone has benefited from this achievement or the higher quality of life that this implies. Great economic and social disparities persist between and within countries, and intractable gaps in rights deny men, women, girls and boys equal opportunities in life.

A new path to development that promotes equality, rather than exacerbating or reinforcing inequalities, is more important than ever. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, began charting such a new path in 2011 to ensure that we are able to meet the challenges arising from our demographically diverse world of 7 billion.

Laying foundations for change

Institutional changes that began in 2011 respond not only to the new challenges emerging from a world inhabited by 7 billion people, but also to the rapidly approaching target dates for achieving internationally agreed-upon development and rights objectives.

Many of the goals of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, upon which UNFPA's mandate is based, have not yet been achieved, even though the target for completion is only about two years away.

In addition, the Millennium Development Goal that UNFPA contributes to most directly—Goal 5, to improve maternal health—is the furthest from attainment by the 2015 deadline.

Against this backdrop of new population dynamics and rapidly approaching targets, UNFPA carried out a review in 2011 of the first three years of the organization's Strategic Plan for 2008 to 2013. On the basis of this review, the organization made recommendations for changes that would enable it to expand the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives. This Midterm Strategic Review concluded that the organization has much to be proud of, but that its full potential has still to be realized.

Until the middle of 2011, UNFPA had 13 programming objectives. In response to the Midterm Strategic Review, UNFPA narrowed the focus of its programming, resulting in seven objectives. The new Development Results Framework for UNFPA forms a coherent package of seven core areas where the organization will focus its efforts in 2012 and 2013.

The Midterm Strategic Review also recommended changes to the organization's management and business practices to ensure that human and financial resources are used as efficiently as possible and have maximum impact.

Later in 2011, UNFPA drew up a new Business Plan to help implement the recommendations in the Midterm Strategic Review. The main aim of the Business Plan is to sharpen the focus of UNFPA programmes so as to target the most urgent needs at the country level.

The priorities of the Business Plan are to:

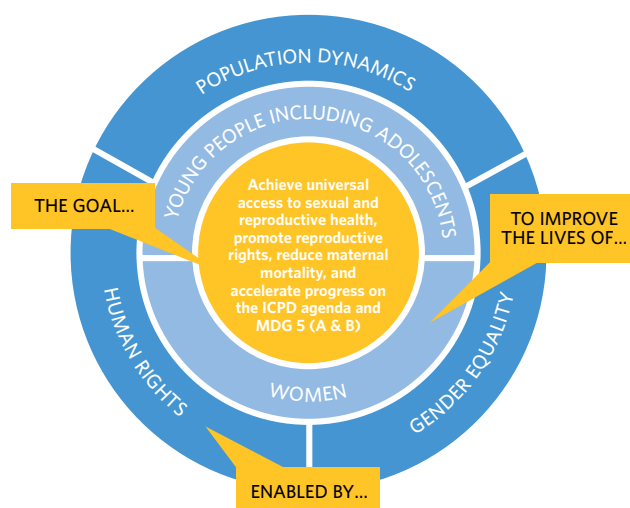
- Focus programmes in countries so these programmes yield greater results, make the most of donor resources and avoid duplication of efforts by other United Nations organizations.
- Place greater emphasis on country programmes and the work of regional offices.
- Improve communications within the organization and with external stakeholders.
- Invest in staff training and performance management.
- Streamline budgeting and reporting.
- Foster collaboration within UNFPA headquarters divisions and with regional and country offices.
- Increase accountability, especially among senior management.

UNFPA also set up two “clusters” in 2011—one to focus on adolescents and youth, and the other to focus on women’s reproductive health. This cluster approach aims to maximize results through coherent, integrated planning and increased synergy, making sure that the organization is driven by the demand from the field.

The new cluster approach, according to UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin, “is an innovative way of thinking that will...better utilize our strengths and resources from across the organization.”

By the end of 2011, UNFPA had also made substantial progress in developing a new communications strategy to reinforce organizational and programmatic changes and position UNFPA as a thought leader and catalyst for action in core areas in line with the revised Strategic Plan and the new Business Plan.

Sustainable development “is the imperative of the twenty-first century, and it cannot be achieved without equity and human rights,” Dr. Osotimehin told the



This graphic shows UNFPA’s new emphasis on achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5-A, to reduce maternal mortality ratios, and on Goal 5-B, to ensure universal access to reproductive health care. The bull’s-eye also includes the goal of accelerating progress towards the objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). This focused support will improve the lives of women and young people, including adolescents. UNFPA’s work will be facilitated by UNFPA support for human rights and gender equality as well as by data collection and analysis.

UNFPA Executive Board at a recent meeting in New York. “It cannot be achieved without empowering women and young people. And it cannot be achieved without improving sexual and reproductive health.”

In a world of 7 billion and growing, “we are ready and committed to focus our efforts towards delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.”

About this annual report

The structure of this report reflects the seven outcomes of the new Development Results Framework of the revised UNFPA Strategic Plan. The report’s final section, on resources and management, shows provisional income and expenditures for 2011 that are grouped according to programming categories in effect before the revised Strategic Plan was in place.



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