

About this report

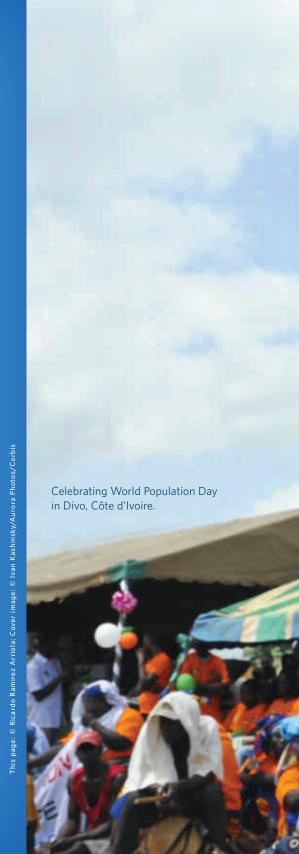
UNFPA, your United Nations Population Fund, worked with 156 countries and territories in 2012 to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Backed by a record \$981 million in donor support in 2012, UNFPA further tightened the focus of its work to increase the impact in the organization's core areas of sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and maternal health to improve the lives of millions of women and young people in developing countries.

Until the middle of 2011, UNFPA had 13 major programming objectives, but after a review of its priorities and a fresh look at emerging challenges in developing countries, the organization narrowed its programming objectives to seven areas where it stands to have the greatest impact on the lives of women and young people:

- Expanding and improving maternal and newborn health.
- Increasing access to voluntary family planning.
- Making HIV and STI services more accessible to pregnant women, people living with HIV, young people and key populations.
- Advocating for gender equality and reproductive rights.
- Increasing young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.
- Linking population dynamics, policymaking and development plans.
- Harnessing the power of data.

This annual report describes progress made toward the achievement of the seven programming objectives globally and in each region in 2012.







Foreword

Sexual and reproductive health is an indispensable accelerator of sustainable development.

When women and young people are in good health, and have the power and means to make informed decisions about how many children to have and when, they have a much better chance of escaping poverty and contributing more fully to the development of their societies.

Yet hundreds of millions of women and girls lack access to information and services that would allow them to avoid or plan a pregnancy, to remain healthy while pregnant or to have a safe delivery, free of complications that can lead to life-long disabilities.

Investing in universal access to sexual and reproductive health is therefore a crucial investment in healthy societies and a more sustainable future.

I applaud UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, for championing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. This report demonstrates the difference UNFPA made in the lives of women and young people in 156 countries and territories, home to nearly 6 billion people.

As the world strives to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and define an equally inspiring development agenda for the years beyond that deadline, UNFPA's activities will continue to play a central role in building a safer, more just, more sustainable and equitable world for all.

-United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

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From the Executive Director

KEEPING THE PROMISES OF RIGHTS AND HEALTH FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We can feel proud of how much has been achieved in the past two decades in terms of improving the health and protecting the rights of women and young people. But the remaining challenges call for more intense and focused efforts.

Each year, 287,000 women in developing countries die from complications arising from pregnancy or childbirth. A staggering 222 million women want to use contraceptives but lack access to them. Nearly 16 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth every year. And every day, 39,000 girls are married before the age of 18.

Behind each of these numbers is a human story: of a mother who died because there was no midwife to help her deliver her child; of a woman who was disabled by an unintended pregnancy; of an adolescent girl whose future was hijacked because she was forced to drop out of school to care for her baby; or of a young girl who was forced into marriage, which robbed her of her childhood, her education and the opportunity to set her own course in life.

No woman's or girl's life story should be allowed to end in needless tragedy. By supporting health, education, rights and choices, UNFPA supports women and young people in building brighter futures for themselves.

Throughout 2012 UNFPA, with support from its donors, partners, developing-country governments and other stakeholders, advanced its mission to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



SUPPORTING FAMILY PLANNING

In July, UNFPA partnered with the United Kingdom, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others at the London Summit on Family Planning. This led to \$2.6 billion in new commitments from donor nations—and significant new commitments from developing countries—to make voluntary family planning available to an additional 120 million women and adolescent girls by 2020. This builds on the work that UNFPA is doing as a global leader on family planning, and will significantly reduce the unmet need for modern contraceptives in many of the world's poorest countries.

In addition to saving and improving the lives of women and children, this commitment for family planning will empower women and girls, reduce poverty and ultimately build stronger nations. Countless studies have shown that women who use family planning are generally healthier, better educated, more empowered in their households and communities, and more economically productive.

Family planning is anchored in respect for human rights, women's empowerment, and social justice and

equality. To maintain the status quo of unmet need for family planning would be to accept the unacceptable.

Contraceptives are urgently needed. So are other affordable, effective and simple health supplies and medicines that could save millions of lives. Their availability and access to them are essential parts of well-functioning health systems that reach everyone, including the most vulnerable.

In response, in 2012 the United Nations established a Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, co-chaired by President of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan and Prime Minister of Norway Jens Stoltenberg. UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake and I serve as Vice-Chairs. The Commission's work focuses on the needs of countries where the most women, newborns and children under five die from preventable causes.

INVESTING IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS

The United Nations General Assembly designated II October 2012 the first-ever International Day of the Girl Child, which UNFPA used as an occasion to draw attention to the practice of child marriage, an appalling violation of human rights that robs millions of girls of their education, their health and a brighter future.

No rationale, be it social, cultural or religious, can justify the damage these marriages do to young girls. Every girl everywhere should have the right to choose whom she marries and when.

A girl who marries later is not only more likely to stay in school, but is also more likely to work, reinvest her income into her household, and become a lever for development. A girl who marries later is more empowered to choose whether, when, and how often to have children. In turn, the whole family has a better chance to thrive, and she has a better chance of rising out of poverty.

In 2012, UNFPA pledged to invest an additional \$20 million over the next five years for comprehensive programming

to reach the most marginalized adolescent girls in 12 countries with high rates of child marriage.

Investing in young girls is smart, and UNFPA is committed to enabling them to expand their life choices, protect their rights and contribute to their own development as well as that of their communities.

DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENTS

This is just one of 26 overarching commitments UNFPA made in 2012 to become more effective, to focus on its core mandate, to stand ready to address emerging challenges, and to make a real difference in the lives of individual women and young people in developing countries.

UNFPA is also committed to informing and shaping the debate around the sustainable development framework that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. The future vision for sustainable development will only be realized if it fully reflects the needs and aspirations of women and girls who are half the world's population.

Towards this aim in 2012, UNFPA led a global review of progress in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights since the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action, which continues to guide UNFPA's work today. The findings of this review will greatly inform United Nations planning for the post-2015 sustainable development framework.

This annual report highlights UNFPA accomplishments in 2012. Our future success will depend on the extent to which we help change the lives of women and young people by ensuring they have the opportunities to shape their own futures. Women and young people in developing countries are counting on us. We must keep our promises to them so they live healthy, productive lives, built on a foundation of rights and equality.



Dancers at UNFPA's "Condomize" event in Washington D.C.

Global initiatives

MEASURING 20 YEARS OF PROGRESS

In 2012, UNFPA, on behalf of the United Nations system, established a secretariat to lead a global review of progress towards achieving the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Programme of Action continues to guide UNFPA work worldwide.

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review aims to identify achievements, gaps, outstanding issues and new challenges in relation to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The findings of the review will be presented to the Secretary-General in the lead-up to the 20th anniversary of the ICPD in 2014.

The review will help shape the future of global population and development policy at national, regional and

global levels. It is a once-in-a-generation chance to define what needs to be done to deliver a more equitable, more sustainable world for the more than 7 billion people who share it.

Evidence of what has worked and where challenges remain is being collected through a global survey developed by UNFPA through regional and thematic conferences.

The first such thematic conference was a Global Youth Forum, which took place in Bali, Indonesia in December 2012. The event, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, drew hundreds of young people as well as representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations entities and the private sector. Several other review-related events are planned for 2013.

A VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT AFTER 2015

Also in 2012, UNFPA joined other members of the United Nations family of organizations in consultations that will lead to a new global sustainable development framework that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.

The UNFPA position for the post-2015 agenda is already clear: at the core of sustainable development are the empowerment of women, adolescents and young people to exercise their reproductive rights; universal access to sexual and reproductive health services within a framework of human rights and gender equality; and an understanding of the implications of population dynamics. The future global development agenda will succeed only if women, adolescents and young people are at its centre.

THE ICPD AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In June, at the closing of the United Nations of Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders adopted "The Future We Want," a common global vision that reaffirmed commitments made at the ICPD in 1994. Delegates pledged, for example, "to reduce maternal and child mortality and to improve the health of women, youth and children" and reaffirmed their "commitment to gender equality and to protect the rights of women, men and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including access to sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence."



UNFPA launched a social media campaign, "Safe birth. Even here," in September 2012 to raise awareness about the importance of providing maternal health services in crises. Through the platform www.unfpa.org/ safebirth, the general public was encouraged to share the good news of safe births in humanitarian settings, such as in refugee camps in Jordan and Uganda.

urgently needed humanitarian assistance in 2012. Military checkpoints, roadblocks and violent clashes prevented health-service providers and patients from reaching facilities in a timely manner. Depleted stocks of reproductive health supplies and medications added to the challenge of safe delivery in the Syrian context.

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