



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Photos:

Cover:

Young woman attends class in Kabul, Afghanistan.

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Foreword:

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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From the Executive Director:

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA.

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Population and Development:

Census campaign in Viet Nam.

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Reproductive Health and Rights:

A woman plays with a baby at the Pouponniere facility in Dakar.

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Gender, Culture and Human Rights:

Young women at literacy and skills training centre in Afghanistan.

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Resources and Management:

Women in Gambia collect fish from boats.

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The Mission of UNFPA

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV and AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA—because everyone counts.

Foreword

For 40 years, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has sought to improve reproductive health in the developing world, including family planning, and to support countries in finding an equitable, sustainable balance between population and development.

In 2009, UNFPA provided assistance to 155 countries and territories, with a special emphasis on women's empowerment, gender equality and HIV prevention. An important thread linking these activities was the need to formulate evidence-based programmes and policies, based on solid data. UNFPA also helped countries prepare for the 2010 round of censuses, which will provide critical information and insights and enable us to devise more targeted policies and investments.

The year also marked the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, and UNFPA joined with partners worldwide to commemorate the landmark Cairo Programme of Action, which continues to guide governments and the international community and contribute to our work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The slow progress in achieving MDG 5—to improve maternal health—illustrates the need for increased political commitment and greater investments in health systems, in particular reproductive health services and supplies. A health system that delivers for mothers will deliver for the whole community. We must do everything we can to reverse the needless deaths of women from complications during pregnancy and child birth, especially during times of crisis and conflict. For too long, maternal and child health has been at the back of the MDG train even though we know it is the backbone of stable and productive societies.

I attach the highest importance to the wide-ranging efforts of UNFPA to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV and AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. UNFPA is bringing us closer to achieving the population and development goals we have set for ourselves and our planet, and which are crucial for building a better world for all.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

From the Executive Director

The 15th anniversary in 2009 of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) prompted governments and partners worldwide to reaffirm their commitment to the visionary and holistic ICPD Programme of Action and underline its importance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Throughout the year, UNFPA continued to press for the achievement of ICPD goals, supporting efforts for population and development, the empowerment of women and the right to sexual and reproductive health, including for the largest generation of adolescents and young people.

In response to humanitarian crises, UNFPA worked with the UN system and other partners to deliver reproductive health supplies, address gender-based violence and gather the data necessary to plan effectively for recovery. From the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Sri Lanka, Pakistan and other countries, UNFPA worked to protect human rights and dignity in the wake of conflict and disaster.

Throughout the year, UNFPA provided technical and financial assistance to countries' national censuses as part of the "2010 round," which runs from 2005 to 2014. The data derived from censuses are essential for development plans, programmes and monitoring.

In 2009, there was increasing momentum in countries to achieve MDG5 to improve maternal health. Efforts were bolstered by a high-level meeting on maternal health in Addis Ababa, and a groundbreaking resolution in the UN Human Rights Council decrying the large inequities in maternal mortality and declaring that maternal health is a human right.

In October, lawmakers from 115 countries gathered in Ethiopia for the fourth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and underlined the indispensable role of population data and analysis, and reproductive health in achieving the MDGs. They expressed their commitment to support accessible and affordable health services that promote family planning, HIV prevention and the health and well-being of women and girls.

As we strive to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, UNFPA continued to work with many partners, including UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the World Bank ("H4") and UNAIDS to support national efforts and accelerate life-saving interventions for women and newborns.

The year was marked by significant progress and measurable impact in the 73 countries supported by UNFPA's Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security. Approximately \$70 million was used



to purchase commodities such as contraceptives, life-saving maternal health drugs, equipment, and reproductive health kits, with \$17 million for developing national capacity, and advocacy.

I believe that working in partnership with others, including civil society, is central to the success of UN reform, system-wide coherence and development effectiveness. In 2009, UNFPA made progress within the UN system, advancing inter-agency initiatives to end violence against women, prevent HIV infection, improve maternal health, and accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting.

In 2009, the Campaign to End Fistula continued to expand and make a positive difference in the lives of women and families. Increasing numbers of women and girls are receiving care to prevent and treat fistula and return to full and productive lives. Since the Campaign's inception in 2003, the number of countries involved has grown from 12 to 47, more than 38 countries have conducted a situation analysis, more than 28 countries have integrated obstetric fistula in national health policies or plans, and more than 16,000 women received fistula treatment and care with support from UNFPA.

Population, women and our changing climate was the focus of *The State of World Population* report in 2009, which was launched on the eve of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. One of the main messages is that women in poor developing countries, who contributed the least to its causes, are bearing a disproportionate burden of climate change and require increased assistance for adaptation so they can contribute more fully to a solution and build resilience in affected communities.

In 2009, the provisional core contributions from donor Governments to UNFPA totalled approximately \$469 million—an increase of \$40 million from the previous year. UNFPA is grateful for continued support in the face of the financial crisis, and the return of a major donor—the United States.

UNFPA takes pride in the progress we made in 2009 and remains committed to addressing challenges. Looking forward, we will continue to support countries in advancing the ICPD Programme of Action and accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid



POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Drawing on population data to make informed decisions and formulate policies that promote sustainable development, reduce poverty and empower women

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