

2008-2011

UNFPA Strategy and
Framework for Action *to*

Addressing Gender-based Violence





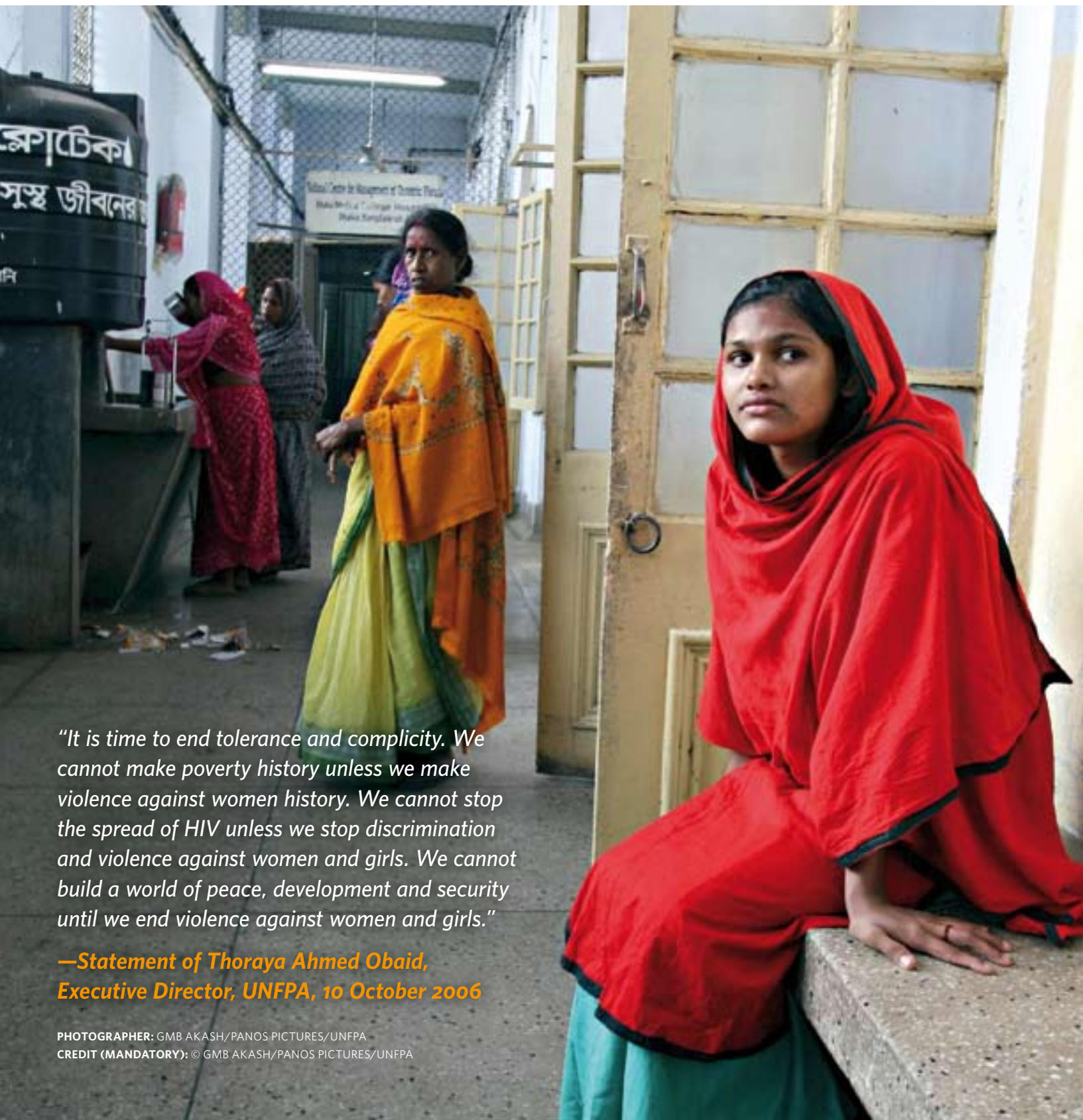
UNFPA Strategy and Framework for Action
to

Addressing Gender-based Violence

2008-2011

**Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch
UNFPA Technical Division**





"It is time to end tolerance and complicity. We cannot make poverty history unless we make violence against women history. We cannot stop the spread of HIV unless we stop discrimination and violence against women and girls. We cannot build a world of peace, development and security until we end violence against women and girls."

**—Statement of Thoraya Ahmed Obaid,
Executive Director, UNFPA, 10 October 2006**

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CST	Country Technical Services Team
DDR	Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
FGM/C	Female genital mutilation/cutting
GBV	Gender-based violence
HRBA	Human rights-based approach
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PEP	Post-exposure prophylaxis
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

I. Rationale for Expanding UNFPA Work on Gender-based Violence

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has consistently advocated that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation and a public health priority. UNFPA's contributions in this area are a major part of its leading role within the United Nations system in furthering gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Fourth World Conference on Women ("the Beijing Conference"), and various international human rights instruments (box 1). In the many countries where UNFPA has a presence, it has supported the building up expertise, leadership and credibility, from organizing catalytic data collection and piloting multisectoral service networks and strategic partnerships to supporting the formulation of national laws and policies and spearheading public awareness raising and social mobilization campaigns. UNFPA can build upon these global experiences to expand its support significantly, commensurate with the scale that this human rights priority warrants.

However, UNFPA support has been fragmented. With commendable exceptions in some countries, funding support has tended to be limited,¹ at times focused on ad hoc, one-time pilot projects of small scale that are not sustained or viable. Yet gender-based violence (GBV) — especially as it relates to women and girls — not only constitutes an affront to the human rights of women and girls and to the achievement of internationally agreed-upon goals and commitments but also directly af-

Reproductive rights include the right of all individuals and couples "to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence...."

Source: "ICPD Programme of Action," paragraph 7.3.

¹ In 2005, UNFPA resources devoted exclusively to addressing violence against women and girls amounted to \$US 4.2 million, or 1.2 per cent of all UNFPA project fund expenditures (core and non-core funds).

fects sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the UNFPA-supported core programme.

A. *UNFPA Role and Accountability*

As the lead United Nations organization on SRH, UNFPA has a natural and strategic entry point to address this issue, given the intrinsic linkages with GBV and the critical opportunities that SRH services represent. As the organization with primary responsibility for designing and promoting the ICPD Programme of Action, UNFPA has an ethical, programmatic and fiscal responsibility to redouble its efforts in addressing GBV. This is also the case regarding its efforts to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs.² Moreover, as an organization that follows a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming, UNFPA has an obligation to tackle this systematic and universal violation of fundamental human rights via its policies and programmes. Furthermore, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC)³-designated UNFPA as the lead agency for addressing GBV in humanitarian situations. Hence, UNFPA is at the forefront in dealing with this issue and coordinating systems of multisectoral response in all conflict, post-conflict, natural disaster and recovery settings.

UNFPA has multiple opportunities to step up responses to GBV through its regular programmes, via its humanitarian response efforts as well as intensified partnerships and resource mobilization efforts — at advocacy, policy formulation, community mobilization and service-levels (see box 1). By seizing such opportunities, UNFPA can make better use of available resources and maximize results, thereby improving the efficacy of its programme implementation and technical support. Such efforts are in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Harmonization and Effectiveness.



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