

Annual Report 2004

Millennium Development Goals

All United Nations Member States have pledged to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and ICPD+5 agreements are closely related and mutually reinforcing.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:

Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and suffering from hunger;

2. Achieve universal primary education:

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling;

3. Promote gender equality and empower women:

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education;

4. Reduce child mortality:

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under the age of five;

5. Improve maternal health:

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio;

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases;

7. Ensure environmental sustainability:

Integrate sustainable development into country policies and programmes, reduce by half the number of people lacking access to safe drinking water and improve the lives of slum dwellers;

8. Develop a global partnership for development:

Address poverty reduction, good governance, open trading, the special needs of the least developed countries and landlocked and small island states, debt, youth employment and access to essential drugs and technologies.

Foreword

The year 2004 marked the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. That landmark conference produced a visionary and comprehensive action plan that linked poverty alleviation to women's empowerment, gender equality and universal access to reproductive health. It connected population issues with sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Its ambitious goals, including universal access to reproductive health by 2015, are crucial to our ability to reach the Millennium Development Goals, adopted by the world's governments as a blueprint for improving the lives of people everywhere in the 21st century.

In 2004, countries from all regions took the opportunity to renew their commitment to the ICPD consensus and reaffirm their partnership with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. It is clear that in these 10 years, countries have made real progress in carrying out the promises made in Cairo. But it is equally clear that they need to accelerate action and scale up interventions. Much remains to be done to reduce unintended pregnancies, prevent maternal deaths, combat HIV/AIDS and meet the needs of young people and the poor, especially among the poorest women and girls.

Each year, this annual report sums up key issues affecting women, young people and their families worldwide, and the results achieved, with support from UNFPA, in improving their lives. For 2004, the report marks a halfway point in a 20-year plan that will continue to provide powerful guidance to governments, UNFPA and their partners.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K. Annan'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kofi A. Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations

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Photos

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A woman from Bamako, Mali.

Foreword: © Sergey Bermeniev/United Nations

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Overview: © Eskinder Debebe/United Nations

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director

Improving Reproductive Health,

Making Motherhood Safer: © Johnette Iris Stubbs

A mother and child from Thailand.

Confronting the HIV/AIDS Crisis: © Ellen Campbell-Krijgh

A grandmother in Zimbabwe with some of her 15 dependents, all orphaned by AIDS.

Assisting in Emergencies: © Don Hinrichsen

A young boy from Nicaragua, one of more than 40 countries that received emergency assistance from UNFPA in 2004.

Poverty, Population and Development: © United Nations

Young boys drying pieces of plywood in Calcutta, India.

Building Support: © Anne Saint Pierre

A UNFPA-supported exhibition of photos by internationally renowned photographer Fazal Sheikh was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York during October and November 2004 as part of the events marking the 10th anniversary of the ICPD.



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Overview

Reaffirm. Renew. Revitalize. These words capture the spirit of 2004, when UNFPA and the international community celebrated 10 years of progress since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In Cairo, 179 countries agreed on a bold action plan to reduce poverty, ensure women's rights and reproductive health, and integrate population issues into development plans and policies. To mark the anniversary, leaders in government and civil society issued declarations vowing to carry their promises forward.

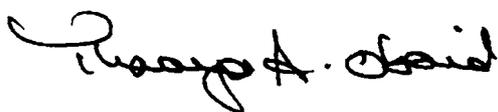
Since Cairo, choices have been expanded for millions of people. In only 10 years, the percentage of couples in the developing world that are able to choose and use contraception has increased from 55 to 60. Infant mortality rates have dropped from 71 to 61 out of every 1,000 babies born. And life expectancy in the developing world has risen from 61 to 63 years of age. Women and men in ever greater numbers have stood up against female genital cutting, rape, gender violence and other human rights violations.

A global survey published by UNFPA in 2004 confirmed progress towards ICPD goals and identified areas for action. Its findings will inform the work of the Fund in the decade ahead. The major challenge is to secure the political will and funding required to achieve the mutually reinforcing ICPD and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2004, confidence in UNFPA was reflected in the growing number of donor governments, from 149 in 2003 to 166 – with an increasing number of developing countries contributing to the Fund. As a result, regular and other contributions surpassed \$500 million for the first time since UNFPA was established in 1969.

In 2004, UNFPA continued to strengthen and improve its programmes, advocacy and policy dialogue. A high-level consultation in New York reinforced the links between HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health. A new youth advisory programme at UNFPA headquarters opened an avenue for the participation of young people. Workshops and publications advanced the Fund's commitment to culturally sensitive programming to advance human rights. Civil society leadership was strengthened at a global round table in London. Parliamentarians renewed their commitment to the Cairo agenda and population and reproductive health at a meeting in Strasbourg.

UNFPA also continued to respond to humanitarian crises. When the devastating tsunami struck in the last week of the year, UNFPA worked to meet the needs of women and young people and restore reproductive health services. Emergency assistance was also provided to Sudanese refugees of the crisis in Darfur.

2004 marked the first year of a new decade dedicated to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. UNFPA remains committed to promoting the right of every man, woman, and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.



Thoraya Ahmed Obaid
Executive Director, UNFPA





Improving Reproductive Health, Making Motherhood Safer

Where the ICPD has been implemented,
it is working – saving women's lives, expanding life opportunities.

As of 2004, progress in reproductive health is evident in many countries, where family planning is the norm and fewer women are dying in childbirth. But much more needs to be done, especially in those countries with far to go in meeting development goals.

Three actions are central to saving women's lives: family planning, skilled attendance at birth, and access to emergency obstetric care. Ten years after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, more than half a million women still die each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Lack of care heightens the risk to mothers and babies: one third of all pregnant women worldwide receive no health care during pregnancy, and 60 per cent of all deliveries take place outside of health facilities. Poverty makes the dangers even greater: the lifetime risk of a woman dying in pregnancy or childbirth in sub-Saharan Africa is 1 in 16, compared to 1 in 2,800 in developed countries. The Cairo conference called for universal access to reproductive health care by 2015.

FAMILY PLANNING

More than ever, women are making their own choices about childbearing – exercising their right to choose the number, timing and spacing of their children. As a result, families are smaller and more prosperous and children are healthier and better educated. A recent study in Africa shows that spacing births by three years or more could reduce infant deaths by 50 per cent and family planning could reduce maternal deaths by 20 per cent.

Current programmes provide contraceptives to 500 million women in developing countries, and 200 million more women would be using family planning if they had access to affordable, high-quality services. This would reduce dramatically the number of unintended pregnancies, abortions, infant deaths, maternal deaths and children losing their mothers. In 2004, UNFPA-supported programmes helped expand access to and improve the quality of reproductive health services, including family planning, especially in the poorest countries.

- In Manikganj, a farming community south of Dhaka, Bangladesh, women seek out the Mother and Child Welfare Centre for a complete array of maternal and health services, from family planning to emergency obstetric care. As one of only eight in the entire country, the UNFPA-supported clinic is a model for the nation, which plans to provide similarly comprehensive facilities in 64 districts by the end of 2005.
- Two guidelines on contraceptive use were published by the World Health Organization (WHO) with UNFPA support through the Strategic Partnership Programme. The two documents – *Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use* and *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use* – help policymakers, managers and the scientific community prepare service delivery guidelines for their national programmes.

- For the first time, Kazakhstan has allocated funds to buy contraceptives – \$3 million in the 2005 budget – and initiated a draft law on reproductive rights. UNFPA has fully covered the needs of the population as the country's only supplier of contraceptives, and will continue to provide logistical support and training.

MAKING MOTHERHOOD SAFER

Much can happen in a single decade, as in the significant reductions of maternal mortality in Bolivia, China, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mongolia and Zimbabwe. Strong safe motherhood policies and the presence of skilled birth attendants and referrals for emergency obstetric care have made a tremendous difference in these countries. The goal of reducing maternal mortality, which is one of the MDGs as well as a key objective of the ICPD Programme of Action, cannot be achieved without universal access to

GLOBAL SURVEY TEN YEARS AFTER CAIRO

A global survey conducted by UNFPA to appraise national experiences concluded that the decade since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action has been one of significant progress. Since 1994, most governments have integrated population concerns into their development strategies. Almost all of the 151 developing countries surveyed have adopted laws or other measures to protect the rights of girls and women. Some 131 have changed national policies, laws or institutions to recognize reproductive rights. Results published in *Investing in People: National Progress in Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action 1994-2004* will be used by UNFPA to ensure greater progress in the next decade.

reproductive health information and services. Of the estimated 529,000 maternal deaths each year, 99 per cent are in developing countries.

- The UNFPA report *Maternal Mortality Update* for 2004 focuses on the role of skilled attendance in improving maternal health. A companion booklet, *Into Good Hands: Progress Reports from the Field*, provides examples of policies, research and activities aimed at improving skilled attendance.
- In Rajasthan, India, district-level emergency obstetric care projects have proven so successful that funding has multiplied tenfold and the UNFPA-supported initiative has been expanded statewide and adopted as part of the nation's reproductive and child health programme.
- India, Morocco, Mozambique and Nicaragua are part of the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Programme of Columbia University with which UNFPA continues to carry out safe motherhood projects and needs assessments.
- Eight international organizations, including UNFPA, launched a safe motherhood initiative in

Latin America and the Caribbean in February 2004. The aim is to improve national and municipal maternal health services, with skilled attendance at every birth along with drugs, equipment, supplies and referral services.

- UNFPA was among UN organizations that expressed concern about the living conditions of Palestinian women. The agencies cited an increase in home deliveries, a decrease in post-natal care, and 52 pregnant women having given birth at military checkpoints since 2002.
- A new regional and provincial safe motherhood initiative in Viet Nam is improving the quality of obstetric and newborn care through training for health service providers and by improving women's knowledge and understanding of pregnancy, delivery and the needs of infants.
- UNFPA presented 12 tractor ambulances to the Ghana Ministry of Health in May to provide fast access to medical help in emergencies. The locally produced ambulances (tractors hitched to small trailers) can reach people in rural areas with rough and hilly terrain, particularly in the northern regions.

Photo: United Nations



ENDING OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Obstetric fistula is a tragic childbirth injury that affects at least 2 million women in developing countries. UNFPA's global Campaign to End Fistula focuses on prevention and treatment in 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Arab States. A website for the campaign (www.endfistula.org) was launched in 2004.

- Uganda launched a national campaign to end fistula, providing 12 regional hospitals with equipment and supplies for fistula surgery, training for local doctors, and advocacy to raise awareness.

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