



FINANCIAL RESOURCE FLOWS FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 2004





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Foreword

Each year, the United Nations Population Fund monitors progress towards achieving the financial targets of the ICPD Programme of Action. For the first few years after the Cairo Conference, there was unfortunately very little progress to report. Indeed, between 1995 and 1999, the increase in funding for population activities was negligible. In fact, funding levels even declined slightly. We were all very concerned that the ICPD goal of \$17 billion for 2000 had not been met. Both donors and developing countries fell short of the agreed targets. The international community did not mobilize the required \$5.7 billion for population assistance in developing countries, and developing countries did not raise the required \$11.3 billion in domestic funding for their population programmes. Since then, there was a slow, but steady upward trend in the direction of a concerted response to bridging the funding gap. By 2003, donor funding stood at \$4.7 billion and domestic resources were estimated at around \$11 billion.

It is encouraging to note that the gap between the level of resources required and that actually made available continues to narrow. The present report shows that population assistance increased to \$5.6 billion in 2004 and domestic resources are estimated at \$14.5 billion. Donor assistance to population represented 5.5 per cent of ODA, the highest percentage ever. Developing countries, as a group, also increased funding for population activities. If the trend continues, it appears that we will reach the target of \$18.5 billion for 2005.

But before we get too complacent, we must remember that our work is far from complete. Increased population assistance originates with a few major donors and the majority of domestic resources are mobilized in a few large developing countries. We need more donors to provide their fair share of assistance and we need more developing countries to pull their own weight and not rely so heavily on external assistance. Most developing countries are still not able to generate sufficient domestic resources to implement their population programmes and are heavily dependent upon international assistance.

The largest share of funding for ICPD activities is going to HIV/AIDS and there are concerns that this may be at the expense of the other equally critical components of the ICPD population package, especially family planning and reproductive health. If the trend is not reversed, this could undermine efforts to prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and affect the progress of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Another major concern is that the ICPD financial targets were fixed over ten years ago, with cost estimates based on experiences as of 1993. Since that time, the population and health situation in the world has changed dramatically, especially the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Health-care costs have skyrocketed. And the value of the US dollar today is far lower than it was in 1993. The question is whether the 2005 ICPD target will be sufficient to meet the growing needs of developing countries. We know that the increases in funding are still not adequately addressing the growing AIDS crisis. And we need additional resources for family planning and reproductive health services.

The challenge for the international community is to continue to mobilize adequate resources to implement the Cairo agenda and to meet today's growing needs.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the donor Governments, the Governments and relevant agencies and organizations of developing countries, as well as NGOs, foundations, multilateral organizations and agencies in developed countries, for providing the information contained in this report. We also wish to thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Offices for their kind cooperation, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for their continued support and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) for the excellent collaboration in collecting the data on which this report is based.

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