



# Millennium Development Goals

All United Nations Member States have pledged to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. UNFPA gave priority in 2003 to drawing attention to the links between these goals and the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, including publication of *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Population and Reproductive Health as Critical Determinants*.

- 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.

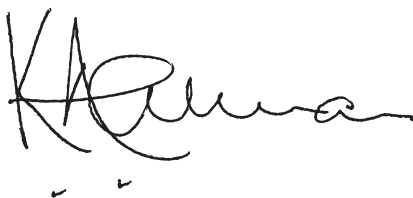
# Foreword

For more than 35 years, the United Nations Population Fund has played a key role in helping the world to address population challenges. Its provision of reproductive health information and services has been a lifeline for millions of women, girls and families throughout the world. UNFPA has demonstrated that improving the lives of women and families helps to reduce poverty and slow population growth. It has helped countries integrate population considerations into their national strategies for development. It has forged strong partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations and other members of the UN system. And it continues to implement a wide range of programmes, encompassing family planning, safe motherhood and the empowerment of young people to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS.



This annual report shows the wide scope of action undertaken by UNFPA in 2003. We can see how lives are saved by emergency obstetric care; how girls stay in school longer when encouraged to delay marriage and pregnancy; how violence against women declines when laws are made stronger; and how human rights are advanced when discrimination is addressed in culturally sensitive ways. These and other programmes are part of the world's wide-ranging efforts to implement the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Indeed, without sustained follow-up to the landmark Cairo conference, our wider campaign to achieve the Millennium Development Goals will be much more difficult.

Population issues are closely tied to our common hopes for a better future. Everyone benefits when people, no matter where they are born, have opportunities and choices, and enjoy respect for their human rights. This annual report shows UNFPA's enduring commitment to that mission of human dignity and well-being. I commend this volume's information and analysis to the widest possible global readership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K. Annan'.

Kofi A. Annan

*Secretary-General of the United Nations*

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## Photos

Cover:  
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*Young students at a school in Guinea.*

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*Mothers and their children awaiting care at a health clinic in Tunisia.*

HIV/AIDS Prevention:  
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*Young students from Botswana playing in a schoolyard painted with messages about HIV/AIDS. In 2003, UNFPA helped the African Youth Alliance to expand its AIDS-related activities in a number of countries, including Botswana.*

Emergencies:  
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*A young girl from Rwanda, one of 34 countries that received emergency support from UNFPA in 2003.*

Poverty, Population and Development:  
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*A young woman taking a break from collecting paper and tin at a garbage dump in Brazil.*

Partnerships and Fund-raising:  
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*UNFPA Goodwill Ambassadors helped kick off the 34 Million Friends of UNFPA campaign in Europe at a star-studded event staged at the Residence Palace Theatre in Brussels, Belgium.*



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# Overview

Underlining the centrality of reproductive health to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was a priority throughout 2003. These goals are inseparable from the ICPD Programme of Action, which has been UNFPA's blueprint for development since 1994. The links are now widely recognized. The ICPD goal of universal access to reproductive health services is of fundamental importance to poverty reduction, and progress in population and reproductive health is absolutely indispensable in achieving at least four of the MDGs: promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS.



In 2003, UNFPA supported population and reproductive health activities in 136 countries to reduce poverty and advance human rights.

To promote gender equality and empower women, UNFPA developed a programming guide for health workers on gender-based violence and promoted policy dialogue through the Adolescent Girls Initiative in 11 countries to help girls to stay in school and delay marriage and pregnancy;

To reduce child mortality, UNFPA expanded access to emergency obstetric care through the Averting Maternal Death and Disability programme in India, Morocco, Mozambique and Nicaragua and strengthened family planning services that enable couples to have smaller, healthier families;

To improve maternal health, we worked to prevent and treat obstetric fistula in some 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Arab region and dispatched emergency reproductive health kits to 30 countries and territories experiencing crisis situations;

To combat HIV/AIDS, UNFPA supported African Youth Alliance efforts to expand HIV prevention education in four African countries and introduced a prevention programme for youth in six Central American and Caribbean countries.

UNFPA's work in these and other areas is widely recognized for its contribution to a comprehensive approach to development that puts people first. Support for UNFPA was evident in the record number of donors who pledged financial contributions in 2003, and in statements issued by developing and developed countries during preparations for the tenth anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action in 2004.

With the end of 2003, we conclude the first decade dedicated to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. Along with the MDGs, it continues to provide a road map forward to a future of development, peace and security. UNFPA remains committed to carrying out our mission to advance reproductive health and rights in culturally sensitive ways that respect the human rights and dignity of all people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thoraya A. Obaid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thoraya" and the last name "Obaid" clearly visible.

**Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**  
*Executive Director*





# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

The difference between life and death, health and disability. From family planning to obstetric care that saves lives.

Gaps in reproductive health care account for nearly one fifth of the worldwide burden of illness and premature death, and one third of the illness and death among women of reproductive age. These gaps could be closed and millions of lives saved with highly cost-effective investments in this area, including contraceptive services and supplies now in severe global shortage.

Reproductive health yields a high return on investment. Reproductive health services, especially for the poorest with the greatest need, not only improve quality of life for individuals and families but also contribute to economic growth, societal and gender equity, and democratic governance. In particular, adequate funding of programmes enabling young people to avoid unwanted pregnancy, unsafe childbirth and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) would produce a significant benefit to development and slow the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Key areas of UNFPA support are featured below in examples of action in family planning, safe motherhood, obstetric fistula, adolescent reproductive health, gender violence, commodity security and access and quality.

## FAMILY PLANNING

Greater access to family planning is a sign of progress: 60 per cent of married couples in developing countries now use modern methods of contraception, compared to 10-15 per cent in 1960. Even so, more than 200 million women worldwide are still in need of access to a full range of effective, modern family planning methods to be able to space their children or limit the size of their families. More than half the women in some countries say they would have preferred to postpone or avoid their most recent birth. And more than 50 million of the 190 million women who become pregnant each year have abortions, many under unsafe conditions.

UNFPA supports voluntary family planning programmes that help couples plan the size of their families, protect the health of mothers and their children, enhance family well-being and increase men's participation in family planning and reproductive health decisions. In addition, UNFPA provides contraceptive commodities to support these programmes and to fill requests from the international donor community.

- In Nigeria, UNFPA maintained the continuous availability of at least five contraceptive methods at 540 service delivery points in 2003. In the 12 States covered by the Coun-



### Adding It Up

A new report makes the case for increased funding for reproductive health services — particularly in poor countries — by illustrating the unusually broad societal and individual impact of investments in reproductive health. The Alan Guttmacher Institute and UNFPA have jointly published *Adding It Up: The Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care*.

Potential health benefits are tremendous, the report says. Each year current programmes providing contraceptives to the 500 million women in developing countries who do not wish to become pregnant already prevent: 187 million unintended pregnancies; 60 million unplanned births; 105 million abortions; 22 million miscarriages; 2.7 million infant deaths; 215,000 pregnancy-related deaths; and 685,000 children from losing their mothers.

try Programme, at least 80 per cent of facilities offered a combination of family planning and efforts, including HIV/AIDS counselling, to stem STIs. With special support from Canada, these efforts are being expanded to improve contraceptive logistics and the supply of other reproductive health essentials.

- UNFPA works with the military in many countries to reach men with information, education and services for family planning, HIV prevention, reduction of gender-based violence and other reproductive health concerns. A new digital document, *Enlisting the Armed Forces to Protect Reproductive Health and Rights: Lessons from Nine Countries*, offers "lessons learned" from projects in nine military organizations.

### SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Saving women's lives is the most fundamental of UNFPA goals. One woman dies every minute from pregnancy-related complications, yet most of these deaths are preventable. Worldwide, the disparity in maternal health between rich and poor countries is the widest of all health indicators.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) call for nations to significantly reduce maternal deaths by 2015. Our strategy is to provide voluntary family planning to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to ensure that all women have the assistance of a skilled health worker during pregnancy and delivery, and access to emergency medical care if complications arise.

- Access to timely emergency obstetric care for pregnant women was the focus of a three-day conference on reducing maternal mortality that was attended by 300 participants from 50 countries. The event was part

- A tiny health clinic in the remote rural village of Goudiry, Senegal, was expanded into a much larger and well-equipped obstetric care centre with support from UNFPA. Services include care for complicated pregnancies, antenatal check-ups, ultrasounds, contraceptive supplies, HIV prevention and information about reproductive health.

### OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Obstetric fistula is a debilitating pregnancy-related condition caused by prolonged obstructed labour. The woman, often very young, suffers chronic incontinence and, in most cases, her baby dies.

UNFPA has launched a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula, and in 2003 provided targeted support to some 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Arab region. Strategies include delaying marriage and pregnancy for young girls, increasing access to family planning, providing access to medical care for all pregnant women, ensuring emergency obstetric care (including Caesarean sections) for all who develop complications, and repairing physical damage through medical treatment with reconstructive surgery and emotional damage through counselling.

- The first report ever to map obstetric fistula in sub-Saharan Africa, published in June 2003 by UNFPA and EngenderHealth, contends that current figures on the number of women living with fistula — estimated at 2 million — are too low, since they are based on patients who seek treatment in medical facilities. In Nigeria alone, there could be as many as 1 million women living with fistula, the report says.

- UNFPA worked with the Government of Bangladesh, where an estimated 70,000 women are living with fistula to establish a

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