



# Reproductive health strategy

to accelerate progress towards the attainment  
of international development goals and targets



**World Health Organization, Geneva**

Department of Reproductive Health and Research  
including UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research,  
Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction

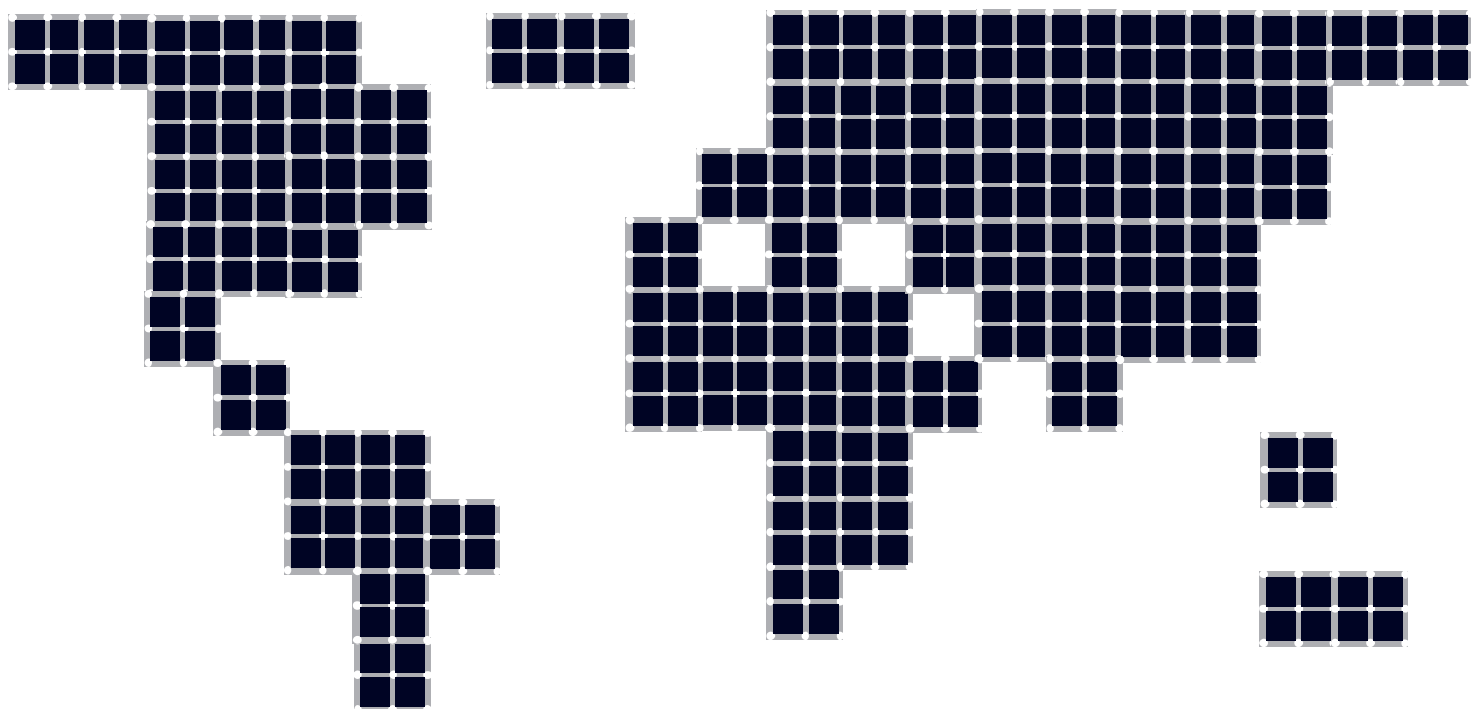




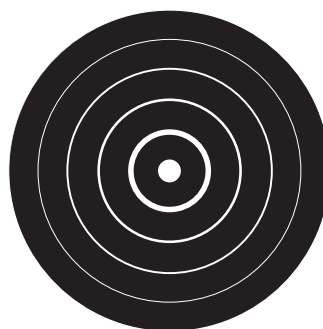




The strategy presented in this document is the World Health Organization's first global strategy on reproductive health.<sup>1</sup> It was adopted by the 57th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2004.



(01 – 64)



# INTRODUCTION

## › 01

Reproductive and sexual health<sup>2</sup> is fundamental to individuals, couples and families, and the social and economic development of communities and nations. Concerned about the slow progress made in improving reproductive and sexual health over the past decade, and knowing that the international development goals would not be achieved without renewed commitment by the international community, the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA55.19 requesting WHO to develop a

strategy for accelerating progress towards attainment of international development goals and targets related to reproductive health. The resolution recalled and recognized the programmes and plans of action agreed by governments at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and at their respective five-year follow-up review conferences.<sup>3</sup>

## › 02

In response to resolution WHA55.19, and following consultations with Member States and partners, WHO has designed a draft strategy that builds on actions taken by Member States pursuant to resolution

WHA48.10 on Reproductive health: WHO's role in the global strategy, which urged Member States to further develop and strengthen their reproductive health programmes.

## › 03

The strategy presented in this document is intended for a broad audience of policy-makers within governments, international agencies, professional associations, nongovernmental organizations and other institutions. Part I sets out the major discrepancies between global goals and global realities, and describes the principal barriers to progress, noting in particular the inequities related to gender and poverty and the exposure to risk of adolescents. Part II lays out the strategy, which is guided by prin-

ciples based on international human rights. It highlights the core aspects of reproductive and sexual health services and proposes ways for countries and WHO to take innovative approaches. It concludes by reaffirming WHO's corporate commitment to collaboration with its partners in order to encourage and support Member States in their efforts to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals and targets relating to reproductive and sexual health.

<sup>1</sup> See resolution WHA57.12.

<sup>2</sup> The definition of reproductive health proposed by WHO and agreed to at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) includes sexual health (see p.8).

<sup>3</sup> Twenty-first special session of the United Nations General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (New York, 1999) and twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century (New York, 2000).





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