

# UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

## Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: April 2004 to June 2005

### Substantive outputs

- The UNFPA Liaison Office (LO) was heavily involved in the review of two draft reports: The State of the African Population (SAPR 2004) and The Family in Africa: Prospects and Challenges (FAPaC). The SAPR was disseminated to delegates and participants of the Third AU Ordinary session and presented to the Council of Ministers during the same session. The office prepared a press kit on the SAPR and coordinated with AU press conferences and interviews.
- The FAPaC was disseminated in Cotonou during the launch of the AU Action Plan on the Family on 27-28 July 2004. In this connection, the LO took the necessary action to have a regional media group cover the event, ensuring adequate coverage of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) family related agenda.
- The UNFPA Representative and the Country Technical Services Team (CST) Director reviewed the assessment papers, draft plan of action and draft declarations prepared for the AU Extraordinary Session on Employment and Poverty Reduction (held in September 2004).
- UNFPA provided financial and technical support to the preparation of Beijing+10, which is led by UNECA, and actively participated in the Ministerial Conference.

### Participation in key regional meetings

- The LO actively participated in and co-sponsored the International Conference on the Child and the Family. Reproductive health and rights as well as access to crucial services for youth were among the key points debated.
- The LO participated in the Inter-Agency Task Force meeting in preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Reduction held in Burkina Faso in September 2004. Furthermore, UNFPA delegation participated in the AU Extraordinary Session held in Burkina Faso 3-10 September 2004. UNFPA provided a financial contribution to the AU Commission, which was used for consultants who worked on the draft plan of action and the draft declaration, as well as towards translation costs.
- UNFPA Representative made a presentation at the African Regional Meeting to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ICPD (Nairobi, June 2004). The output of the meeting included, *inter alia*, a declaration that identified priority issues in population, health and development.
- The Director of Africa Division and UNFPA Representative attended the Session of the Council of Ministers and the Summit of African Heads of States and Governments.

- In addition, the Director of Africa Division and the UNFPA Representative participated in the UN Regional Consultative Meeting organized by UNECA. The Representative also participated in the Cluster Group Works.
- UNFPA Participated in the AU Conference on Crime prevention and Drug control supported by UNDC.

### **Building alliances and maintaining existing partnerships**

- Dialogue with the AU Commission continues with a view to finalize UNFPA's support to the implementation and promotion of the NEPAD Programme of Action. UNFPA and the AU have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the principles of strategic partnerships and specifies roles of each organisation in their collaboration related to the advancement of Africa's social development agenda. The emphasis was on poverty reduction, advocacy for gender equity, equality and the empowerment of women, as well as youth development, the well-being of African families, the prevention of HIV/AIDS, reduction of maternal mortality, and the acknowledgement of population, reproductive health and social issues as one of the pillars of development. This MOU will form the basis for official cooperation agreement with the RECs. The cooperation project agreement focusing on institutional and technical capacity building is under review for approval by UNFPA.
- UNFPA supported the AU in convening the African Population Commission. APC's roles and functions were reviewed in the context of AU's strategic framework (2004-2007) and a new bureau was formed. The rules of procedure were also revised.
- Technical assistance has also been provided to the Gender Directorate to help it with the formulation of strategic framework for Africa's Gender Policy.
- In further collaboration with the African Union Commission, UNFPA provided technical assistance to the Department of Social Affairs for its MDG+5 review, based on which the African Position on MDG+5 was prepared.
- Following dialogue and coordination by the LO, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Africa Division and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa regional office.
- Dialogue continues with ECA with respect to strategic partnership in support of the NEPAD programme.
- The LO established a relationship with the African Youth Policy Forum and with the Sub-Saharan Media Group.
- As a result of continued dialogue with the Regional Communities (RECs) the capacity of one REC for the implementation and monitoring of NEPAD was assessed and the assessment of the capacities of two additional RECs is on the line.
- Through the support from UNFPA, and with a view to harmonization, EAC reviewed reproductive health policies in EAC partner countries and the EAC Sectoral Committee adopted recommendations for policy harmonization.
- As a follow-up to LO-initiated capacity assessment mission to the West African Health Organization (WAHO), a UNFPA representative visited WAHO and an agreement was reached on key areas of UNFPA support. Pending the finalization of a cooperation agreement, WAHO will present to the Health Ministers of the region a strategic action plan on reduction of maternal and peri-natal mortality.

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies**

UNFPA/WHO/IOM supported capacity assessment of two RECs and one sub-regional organisation (WAHO, which is part of ECOWAS). Joint IOM/UNFPA support to EAC for health policy harmonisation is ongoing. UNFPA is soon to fund a coordination meeting of Gender Focal persons working in the RECs, NEPAD Secretariat, ECA and AU Commission. In addition, UNFPA continues to participate within the UN Cluster groups and is also promoting the NEPAD City Schemes in collaboration with UNEP and IOM.

### **Advocacy for Africa's development**

UNFPA initiated the publishing of articles that appeared in a regional newspaper with a view to raise awareness and promote debate on key development issues in the region. The dissemination of the African Population Report and the document on “The Family in Africa: Prospects and Challenges” were also part of awareness raising and advocacy for these pertinent issues.