

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to August 2009

UNFPA support focused on three main activities, namely policy and strategy development, institutional strengthening and technical support.

In terms of policy development in the social sector, UNFPA contributed to a variety of areas, which were approved by the AU Executive Council and endorsed by the African Heads of States and Governments.

UNFPA has supported the consultative process and the development of a continental Gender Policy that was approved in December 2008 by AU Minister of Gender and Women's Affairs. Similarly, UNFPA provided technical assistance for the development of the Africa Social Policy Framework and advocated for its approval. The approval of the framework was effected by African Ministers of Social Development in October 2008. UNFPA also supported the production of the third series of the State of African Population 2008 Report that focuses on Population Dynamics and Climate Change: Implications for Africa's Sustainable Development. Furthermore, UNFPA provided Technical support for the Development of AUC's Social Development Strategic Plan (2009-2012).

In addition, UNFPA supported the assessment of the State of African Youth and the development of the African Youth Charter which was approved by African Ministers in Charge of youth and endorsed by African Heads of States. As a follow-up, UNFPA supported the development of a Plan of Action for the Popularization, ratification and Implementation of the Charter. The processes ensured full participation and ownership by African youth, as about 20 youths from the five regions of Africa participated in a write-up workshop and drafted the Charter Poi. The latter was approved by African Ministers in Charge of Youth. To date 16 countries have ratified the Charter and 30 member states have approved and signed it.

UNFPA provided technical support for the development of the AU draft Advocacy and Communication. Support was also proved to IGAD, SADC, ECCAs, and EAC for the development of sub-regional strategies based on the Maputo Plan of Action on Reproductive Health mentioned above. The RECs were also supported in planning for Reproductive Health Security Commodity. Technical support was provided for the assessment of HIV/AIDS, Women and Girls in Conflict and Post-Conflict countries.

In relation to institutional support, the development of a Computer based Monitoring and Evaluation tool (AMERT) initiated in 2007 was completed and the pilot phase of adaptation by the AUC is nearing completion. Related orientation was also provided to the RECs. With a view to initiating capacity building for the RECs, an Advocacy

Seminar was organized for Communication, Health and Gender officers of RECs which provided the first ever training that initiated capacity building in the area. The participation of some Regional Media Houses also provided opportunity for exchange of experiences.

An Advocacy seminar for Communication, Health and Gender officers of RECs was organized and it was the first ever training to initiate capacity building in the area. The participation of some Regional Media Houses also provided opportunity for exchange of experiences. In further support to institutional strengthening, IT and other equipment were provided to the following Departments: Social Affairs, Human Resource, Science and Technology as well as to the Department of Economics.

Further support is being provided for the following activities which are underway:

- AU Youth Volunteer programme aimed at empowering African Youth and contributing to their enrichment through sharing and learning from experiences and knowledge among African countries;
- Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) where AUC, UNFPA and other partners are expected to jointly support the country-driven initiative. In this connection UNFPA is providing both technical and financial support to the AUC, while its Country Offices are in the forefront supporting national governments;
- Plan of Action on the Continental Gender Policy;
- Preparation of a Compendium on African Women Professionals (AWPs), with a view to contributing to bridging the knowledge gap on AWP and to making visible the achievements of African Women;
- Technical assistance geared to building AUC capacity in advocacy and monitoring;
- Financial and Technical assistance for the training of selected Youth, in project management (including planning, and monitoring), leadership skills and advocacy.