

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2006 to June 2007

UNFPA's continued dialogue and close collaborative work with the AU Commission, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the NEPAD Secretariat has resulted in the following outputs:

- In collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Office (IPPF/AFR), UNFPA supported the development of a Continental Reproductive Health Policy Framework, which the AU Executive Council endorsed during the AU Summit held in Khartoum, Sudan in January 2006. This was followed by support for the development of a time-bound and costed Plan of Action for the operationalisation of the Policy Framework (this plan is known as the Maputo Plan of Action). The latter was approved at a special Session of AU Ministers of Health which brought together 49 countries and over 38 partners. The Executive Council has now endorsed the Plan.
- The African Youth Charter developed through UNFPA technical and financial support was approved by the Ministers in charge of Youth and subsequently endorsed by the AU Executive Council (July 2006).
- UNFPA supported the development of sub-regional strategies of reproductive and sexual health for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). While additional support was provided to the latter for the development of an action plan, technical advisory services were provided to SADC for mainstreaming population into SADC's programmes and policies.
- Financial support was also provided to the NEPAD Secretariat to help it strengthen the capacity of its advisors in the management of gender issues and for sensitizing the professional staff in the area of gender. The support also catered for mainstreaming reproductive health and HIV/AIDS across all sectors, as well as to develop monitoring and evaluation indicators for the APRM.
- A grant was also provided to strengthen the capacity of the Pan African Parliament for capacity building in its advocacy work for social development (including gender) and poverty reduction.
- The technical advisory services provided helped the AU Department of Social Affairs complete (a) the review on African Health Systems, strength and constraints; (b) identification of model health projects (best practices); (c) developing strategies for operationalization of the Road Map on maternal mortality reduction.

- UNFPA also contributed to the redesigning of the AU Commission's database, as well as the development of computer based Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System.
- UNFPA has begun involving the RECs in its planning workshops and key meetings, particularly those related to maternal mortality reduction and ensuring reproductive health commodity security.
- UNFPA participated in consultation meetings on the AU Commission's role in intensifying the struggle against HIV/AIDS. It provided technical inputs to the Draft HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2005-2007) and to the Strategic Plan of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA).
- UNFPA supported the AU Commission in producing the Second State of the African Population Report (2006).
- UNFPA also provided financial support to the Special Session of African Ministers of Health on Sexual Reproductive Health (September 2006).