

UNFPA contribution

Report of the Secretary General report on the Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

UNFPA's inputs focused on the following areas:

- Contributions to key activities, assessment of results and impact, gaps and challenges, and key policy messages and recommendations;
- Efforts to foster greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key areas of policy focus contained in the system-wide plan of action.

Thematic Area 1: Structural transformation, productive employment and decent work in the context of a changing global scenario

- UNFPA supported generation of evidence and investment cases on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of adolescents and youth, including that of vulnerable and marginalized populations (youth with disabilities, young migrants, etc) to inform policy making processes. In many countries, additional tools are developed and put in place (such as **Youth Development Index**, **Youth well-being Index**) to highlight achievements and identify gaps in implementing youth-related policies. UNFPA supports adolescents and youth, in particular adolescent girls, to ensure they continue to be empowered to have access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. By 2019, in 50 per cent of UNFPA programme countries, young people, including marginalized adolescents and youth, participated in the formulation of sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes.
- UNFPA launched the **Global Demographic Dividend Atlas**, which will soon go online as an interactive tool portraying national profiles of the current status of development indicators that matter to a Demographic Dividend.
- UNFPA has also implemented with the World Bank the flagship programme "**Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend**" (SWEDD). From the initial 6 countries - Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, joined by Benin in 2018, the programme aims to accelerate the demographic transition to harness the Demographic Dividend (DD) through empowerment of women and girls, in particular adolescent girls, by delivering on the three components: (1) Generating demand for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health, and Nutrition (RMNCHN) services by promoting social and behavioral change and empowering women and girls; (2) Strengthening the availability of RMNCHN commodities and qualified healthcare workers, and (3) Fostering political commitment and capacity for policy-making. To date, the project demonstrated results in facilitating girls' education by enabling them to stay in school, strengthening midwifery training and institutional capacities for obstetric services and nursing, expanding public-private partnership for women and girls' health, and establishing regional and national DD Observatories to provide updated knowledge and analyses on DD for informed decision making and investments. The project raised the awareness and strong commitment of political, religious and traditional leaders to invest in women and girls' empowerment and health. It leveraged support of civil society, community and youth networks to support interventions for greater impact.

Recommendation: Member States should continue to invest in and ramp up actions to integrate population dynamics into national development plans and strengthen statistical systems to facilitate evidence-based decision making.

Thematic Area 2: Social protection

- UNFPA supports policy research and advice for governments, including government-government dialogues, helping governments to characterize the demographic pace of ageing, prepare for population ageing through health across the life-cycle, address low fertility, understand the household structure of older persons in the country, and develop policies that promote a second demographic dividend.
- The **UNFPA-UNICEF Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage** has contributed to reach adolescent girls through quality services (health, education, social protection, child protection, etc.) through systems strengthening in 12 countries. In India, for example, the programme influenced national social protection schemes in support of girls' education in a number of states. West Bengal's state action plan for children supports

‘Kanyashree Prakalpa’, a fully budgeted scheme that reaches 4.3 million girls through conditional cash transfers.

- The **UNFPA Global Programme on Ageing and corresponding inter-agency network** was established in 2016 and works closely with partners at the World Health Organization, the Titchfield City Group on Ageing, UNDP, HelpAge International, and other global and regional partners to support governments adapting to population ageing.
- With UNFPA support, the **Arab States Regional Ageing strategy 2019-2029** was developed by the League of Arab States in 2019.
- As the pandemic of COVID-19 poses global threats to older person, our **partnerships with WHO and HelpAge** are in force to share data and assure alignment on the use of evidence on risks and outcomes, exchange promising interventions, and to undertake common global advocacy that the protection of older persons is at the center of preparedness and response efforts, in our collective commitment to leave no one behind through a “One-UN” approach.
- 88 per cent of census conducted in 2018-2019 integrated disability and migration into respective census questionnaires.
- UNFPA supported the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) of the Philippines to complete its National Inquiry on the Access to Reproductive Health and Rights of Women with Disabilities.
- In the State of Palestine, UNFPA supported the first ever Service Directory for GBV Survivors in braille language, for women and girls with disabilities.
- In Zambia, a module on disability inclusion for pre-and in-service training of health care providers was developed with the support of UNFPA.
- UNFPA supported Bosnia and Herzegovina to expand the network of Healthy Ageing Centres (HACs) in eastern and central Europe region.

Recommendation: The United Nations system, through a One-UN approach, should provide assistance to Member States, upon request, in order to strengthen and integrate health systems as a matter of urgency in order to avoid significant socio-economic costs of inaction. COVID-19 has demonstrated that resilient health systems are critical to global health emergency preparedness and recovery.

Thematic Area 3: Human capability development: addressing the non-income forms of poverty

- UNFPA worked to position SRHR and key issues of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action within the global health discourse and frameworks, e.g. Primary Health Care, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Global Action Plan on the SDG3, in order to facilitate policy dialogue, programming and results at country level.
- During the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 jointly convened by UNFPA and the Governments of Denmark and Kenya from 12 to 14 November 2019 to mark the 25th anniversary of the ICPD, UNFPA presented the key components of a comprehensive life course approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Several countries indicated their willingness to move towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as an essential part of universal health coverage.
- UNFPA supported the elaboration and is now one of the implementing agencies of the **Global Action Plan for SDG3**, which has 12 UN multilateral signatories, provides a strategy and vision for improved results and stronger national ownership through 7 accelerators such as primary health care and sustainable financing. UNFPA co-leads the Data and Digital Health accelerator, together with WHO.
- UNFPA Supplies supports countries with the greatest needs, helping them to strengthen their supply chains so that women and adolescent girls can access a choice of contraceptives no matter where they live. The programme has a particular focus on 46 countries, in addition to providing support for reproductive health services in humanitarian crises. Through UNFPA Supplies programme, UNFPA works with partners and governments to ensure access to a reliable supply of medicines for STI prevention and maternal health services. UNFPA also works to integrate family planning services into primary health care to ensure women and girls are able to access information and contraceptives.
- Partnerships helped to increase the utilization of integrated sexual and reproductive health services:

- The **Family Planning 2020 partnership**, in which UNFPA served as one of the core conveners, enabled an additional 9 million women and adolescent girls to use modern contraception during the 2018-2019 period;
- In 2019, UNFPA became a host of the secretariat of the **Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent partnership**; the movement has mobilized and intensified international and national action by governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges encountered by women, children and adolescents around the world.
- The **H6 partnership**, of which UNFPA is a member, established multi-stakeholder platforms in 40 developing countries, and was elevated with a vision and operational plan to support strategic interventions at national scale by improving partners' coordination and technical collaboration
- UNFPA led the **Global Campaign to End Fistula**. Eighty per cent of countries in the Global Campaign had national strategies to end obstetric fistula;
- UNFPA co-leads the **Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage**. In phase 1 of the programme, 11 of the 12 countries in the programme developed strategies end child marriage.
- UNFPA, as a member of the **Global Financing Facility**, continued to provide technical assistance to countries to finance the health outcomes of their populations;
- UNFPA facilitated expansion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) through interagency and intergovernmental collaboration and experience sharing. A collaboration with UNICEF and WHO resulted in inclusion of health in the Outcome document endorsed by the General Assembly Resolution¹ of the second UN High-Level Conference of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (BAPA+40). UNFPA also collaborated with the intergovernmental organizations such as Partners in Population and Development (PPD) in 2018-2019. This partnership yielded key outcomes. In the first instance, UNFPA, PPD and National Population and Family Planning Board of Indonesia (BbkbN) hosted an **Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation** which resulted in the Bali Outcome. The outcome was endorsed by more than 26 countries and committed to promote South-South cooperation to advance the ICPD agenda. In 2019, voluntary commitments to engage in South-South and Triangular cooperation to accelerate achievement of SRHR were made by over 40 countries at the Nairobi Summit.
- UNFPA also raised visibility to and focus on adolescents and youth, in particular SRHR, empowerment and participation within the context of the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, **Youth 2030, the first United Nations Youth Strategy**, was launched to support coherent work of the UN System in meeting young people's needs, realizing their rights, and recognize their positive contributions as agents of change. All five priority Areas of the Strategy are supported by the UNFPA mandate. In 2019, UNFPA issued a new adolescent and youth strategy "**My Body, My Life, My World**", which integrates the learning on what works in programming for young people and emphasizes the leadership and innovation of young people in development, in humanitarian action and in sustaining peace being central to UNFPA's efforts in achieving the three Transformative Results, and the SDGs by 2030.
- UNFPA continued leading global multi-stakeholder platforms such as the **Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action** and the **Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security**, bringing together a wide array of partners on the role of young people in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts.
- The **International Guidance on Comprehensive Sexuality Education** was released through UNFPA partnership with UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS to help education, health and other sectors to implement school-based and out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education programmes and material
- UNFPA has contributed to roll-out the **UN Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence** including guidelines for the coordination of these services; the roll-out took place in more than 55 countries in 2019.
- As part of the **UN-EU Spotlight Initiative**, UNFPA supported capacity development and implementation in Latin America and in 13 countries in eastern, southern, western and central regions of Africa. A number of additional countries are expected to do the same in 2020.

¹ Document A/73/291

- UNFPA also contributed to the development of the **UN-wide violence against women (VAW) prevention framework “RESPECT”**, (R – Relationship skills strengthened, E – Empowerment of women, S – Services ensured – including health, police, legal, and social services, P – Poverty reduced, E – Environments, including schools public spaces and work, made safe, C – Child and adolescent abuse prevented, while nurturing family relationships, T – Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms about gender and gender equality).

Recommendation: Member States should take actions needed in order to ensure access to universal health coverage, through relevant partnerships and with support from development partners.

Thematic Area 5: Reducing inequalities

- As part of an inter-agency task team, UNFPA developed the **UNSDG Guidance on Leaving no one behind (LNOB)** in 2019, also a specific guidance that goes into more details for UNFPA's specific context and mission has been developed.
- UNFPA released in 2018 the **“We Decide Guidelines”** to make GBV and SRHR services more inclusive of and accessible to women and young persons with disabilities and to meet their disability-specific needs in policies, programmes led by UNFPA, governments or partners; the technical guidance was also rolled out through regional workshops convened in all regions of the world.
- The introduction of the **UN Disability Inclusion Strategy** is a major milestone towards realizing the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will constitute an important area of work for the UN System, including UNFPA.
- UNFPA, together with UNICEF and UN-Women launched its **factsheet on Indigenous women's maternal health**, as the first document to bring together all the available data on this issue, with concrete recommendations for how to address the disparities among indigenous and non-indigenous women's maternal health.
- UNFPA expanded its strategic partnerships in 2019 with OHCHR, Government of Costa Rica, Working Group of Experts on the Rights of People of African Descent, World Bank and International Planned Parenthood Foundation to advance the rights and equity of women and girls of African descent
- UNFPA engaged with the **Interagency Network on Gender and Women's Empowerment** and broader strategizing in commemoration of Beijing +25 (Indigenous women in rural Factsheet, Analysis of recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on GBV and SRHR).

Recommendation: Member States should consider investments in strengthening governance systems, including but not limited to developing and implementing laws; and investing in social protection systems in order to reduce inequalities.

Thematic Area 6: Addressing climate change and intensification of natural hazards

- The ICPD Programme of Action referenced climate change, as have resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development and the outcomes of 2018 ICPD regional reviews and both the 20 and 25-year reviews. The Nairobi Summit featured a signature session on Climate Change Adaptation and Justice that included the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, youth leaders and major UNFPA donors, as well as multiple commitments on climate change.
- In 2019, UNFPA held a workshop on early action and preparedness for climate-related crises and a major symposium on SRHR, gender and climate change. The resulting Future Africa Call to Action outlined a programmatic framework for direct connection between UNFPA's mandate and strategic plan and climate change adaptation and resilience.
- UNFPA also prioritizes its programming in the Small Island Developing States as many such States are vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, particularly in the context of humanitarian responses where women and girls are at increased risk. UNFPA increased its investments for the Pacific and Caribbean multi-country programmes to address those challenges.

Recommendation: Member States should continue to take actions to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services are integrated into national disaster risk response plans.

Thematic Area 8: Strengthen capacity in countries for implementing the 2030 Agenda

- A total of 77 programme countries benefited from **UNFPA census capacity strengthening workshops**, and at least 21 countries received direct bilateral technical support from UNFPA
- UNFPA produced and disseminated numerous **technical briefs on significant issues in the 2020 round of censuses**, on measuring disability, migration, and marriage registration in census to leave no one behind; capitalizing on census migration analysis; measuring fertility in census; and generating model-based spatially disaggregated population estimates in hard-to-reach territories; among others.
- In partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Center of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems, UNFPA launched the **ConVERGE (“Connecting Vital Events Registration and Gender Equality”) Initiative** in 10 countries across West/Central Africa, Arab States and Latin America. This initiative strengthens technical support for a life-course approach to CRVS and leverages civil registration and vital statistics to advance women’s empowerment and gender equality.
- UNFPA supported humanitarian decision-making through access to improved population data in humanitarian settings - by developing technical guidance on the production of **Common Operational Datasets on Population Statistics (COD-PS)**, developing a estimation tool for constructing COD-PS from best-available data, and producing COD-PS datasets for UN Humanitarian Country Teams in Bangladesh, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Under UNFPA leadership, guidance on measurement of the **Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.6.1 on women’s decision-making on SRHR was provided to all countries, and the first data on SDG 5.6.2 on laws and regulations that guarantee women’s access to sexual and reproductive health care**, information and education were collected from 107 countries. Based on the quality and scale of data collection, SDG 5.6.2 was upgraded from tier III to tier II indicator by the IAEG for SDGs.
- Partnerships played an important role in counting and accounting for everyone, everywhere. **UNFPA, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation expanded the Geo-Referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development initiative**. Known as GRID3, the multi-country initiative provides governments with technical advice to geo-reference their census and provides model-based population estimates for high-risk areas where census cannot be undertaken.
- In 2019, UNFPA in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, University of Washington, Victoria University and Avenir Health, launched the initiative to estimate the global resources needed to achieve zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal health and zero gender-based violence by 2030. The initiative presents a strong case for the investments needed to achieve these results by 2030 at global, regional and country levels. The methodology used can be applied for other SDGs.
- Together with WHO, UNFPA is co-creating a complete digital solution on adolescent health and SRH/family planning. This “accelerator kit” contains critical content, workflows, decision-making support, and reference software that can be customized, adapted, and deployed by different countries to improve women and young people’s SRH and enable quality and choice. A beta-version is being developed in 2019 and different countries have confirmed interest to test and adapt for their intended users.
- UNFPA has also capitalized on its history of thought-leadership and championing the ICPD Programme of Action, including building capacity of government institutions, civil society, and multilateral organizations, advocating for universal access to SRHR and family planning, gender equality and women’s empowerment and data for policy making.

Recommendation: United Nations entities should continue to support Member States, upon request, to accelerate actions necessary to achieve the SDGs, within the context of the Decade of Action.