UNFPA’s support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency

UNFPA key support to African Union’s NEPAD programme for 2013-2014 was focused mainly on support to the: (a) the operational review of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA) and ICPD beyond 2014, (b) revitalization of civil registration and vital statistics, (c) assessment of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa, (d) capacity building of young African statisticians, (e) production of the 5th State of the African Population Report on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend for Africa’s Socio- Economic Development, (f) reduction of maternal mortality in Africa (including CARMMA, International Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Conference in Africa; meeting of experts of MNCH taskforce; Special Summit – Abuja +12 on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria); (g) generation of evidence-based data; (h) Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanisms (SRM); (i) AU High-Level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; (j) support in areas of adolescent and youth; (k) Support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) (Regional consultation of all RECs including Gender unit of NEPAD secretariat in Africa; and Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) Brainstorming workshop on Migration; and (l) support to the Africa Chapter of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls of the Global Campaign of the UN Secretary General;

At the inter-governmental level, UNFPA is committed to support programmes in Africa, according to regional and national priorities and needs. UNFPA continues to support member states on relevant resolutions and reports in the Economic and Social Council, Commission on Social Development and the General Assembly on NEPAD and Africa. UNFPA aims to strengthen the focus on issues related to gender, health (including sexual and reproductive health, and rights), young people, demographic dividend, population dynamics and sound data collection in Africa.

Financial support:
Country Office disbursements1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources (In USD thousands)</td>
<td>$133,067</td>
<td>$125,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Africa share of resources</td>
<td>47.48%</td>
<td>45.29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The figures provided are the country office disbursements based on the current organization structure. 2013 figures are provisional.
1. Population and Development

a. ICPD beyond 2014 – Harnessing demographic dividend in Africa for Africa agenda 2063.

UNFPA supported ECA and the African Union Commission (AUC) to review implementation of the Cairo agenda. The collaborative effort led to an unprecedented higher level of response to the global survey from countries recorded at 98% – the second highest in the world. The Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Ethiopia on September 2013 with significant support from UNFPA and resulted in the Addis Ababa Declaration.

The Addis Ababa declaration, for the first time in an African intergovernmental outcome, endorsed concepts such as the “guaranteed rights” of bodily integrity, including eradication of female genital mutilation/cutting, and freedom from violence for the realization of human potential as well as comprehensive sexuality education; and expressed commitment to strengthen and implement appropriate legislation, national policies and programmes that guarantee and promote human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development in all sectors. The declaration recognised that the commitment to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2015 is integrally linked to global efforts to reduce poverty, and ensure sustainable development.

The African Population Commission (APC) is an important organ of the AU and contributes to the AU-NEPAD integration agenda. In 2013 UNFPA supported APC’s effort to harness demographic dividend in Africa. The APC convened its Assemblée in Addis Ababa which endorsed the 2012 State of Africa Population Report and the report of the implementation of the programme of action of the International conference on population and development (ICPD). Furthermore UNFPA supported and facilitated the 1st meeting of the 9th APC Bureau in December 2013 which discussed the way forward of the continental initiative on demographic dividend, followed up on the ICPD declaration, and prepared the APC Bureau Action Plan.

Under the umbrella of the ICPD beyond 2014 and at the invitation of the ECOWAS and UNFPA’s West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO), member states convened an ECOWAS Experts’ Consultation on the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) in, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 27th and 28th September, 2013. The meeting was part of Pre-Conferences of the Africa Regional Conference on Population and Development organized in Addis Ababa, from 30th September to 4th October 2013.
This meeting was an opportunity to discuss a common ECOWAS position to feed into the planned African Regional Consultation as well as determine the future role of the sub-regional institutions in the implementation of the ICPD PoA beyond the conference. In line with this, a high level mission was organized to meet with ECOWAS for advocacy on ICPD beyond 2014, including key issues, including women’s health, Demographic Dividend, Youth development and Gender Based Violence.

b. UNFPA is a member of the inter-agency core group (including UNECA, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, HMN and African Development Bank (AfDB). During the period under review UNFPA with the core group supported the AU’s programme to revitalise civil registration and vital statistics. The support includes the implementation of the African Programme for Accelerated Implementation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). Civil registration and vital Statistics is an important aspect of AU and NEPAD African integration agenda. In addition, a comprehensive CRVS protects children and women through establishing identity and proof of age (therefore addressing early marriage), their rights and increases accountability.

Taking cognizance of the important role qualified human resource of CRVS, UNFPA as a member of the core group supported a regional capacity strengthening programme for regional experts. As a result over 30 African experts are now available to support the comprehensive assessments of national CRVS system.

c. UNECA, AfDB, AUC and UNFPA in collaboration with Statistics South Africa and UNSD provided a platform to census managers in Africa to share experiences, discuss lessons learned and assess the implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses (PHCs) in the continent with regard to challenges faced in the conduct of census, use of technology, census cost saving and other aspects, including the likely portability of those approaches to countries during the 2020 round of PHCs. The outcome of the discussion forum is expected to feed into the review of the planning process for the 2020 round of PHCs that will begin in 2015.

d. As part of the UNECA, AUC and UNFPA joint support to the “Africa Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD) 2010 and Beyond”, in collaboration with Statistics South Africa, UNFPA strategically assisted the ISibalo Capacity Building Programme in developing the capacity of young African statisticians in census data production and dissemination using the new technologies. The aim of such support is to groom expertise for the successful implementation of the 2010 and 2020 rounds of PHCs to fully integrate statistics into decision making and to promote open access to, and use of, timely quality data for sustainable development.

e. **UNFPA’s Support to Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanisms (SRM):** In November 2006, a Declaration entitled “Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for Ten Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union” under the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) and its NEPAD Programme was signed between UN and AUC. Since then, UNFPA through its Liaison Office contributed to different activities under
this framework mainly to three major clusters, namely (i) Human and Social Development; (ii) Environment, Population and Urbanization, (iii) Advocacy and Communication as well as Gender, Youth and Health sub-clusters. From 2013, UNFPA and AUC has jointly been coordinating the Environment, Population and Urbanization Cluster. For better coordination of this Cluster, UNFPA has availed a staff and contributed to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in building capacity of staff of AUC and RECs under this cluster.

In addition, during the period under assessment the West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) participated in the fifth session of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) of the UN system-wide support to the AU and NEPAD in Central Africa in Douala on 21 to 22 October 2013. The fifth session of SRCM reviewed the progress made in executing the Common Indicative Programme (CIP) 2010-2012 in support of Economic Community of Central African States, (ECCAS) and their specialized institutions and adopt the second CIP to run from 2013 to 2015.

Taking advantage of the participating experts from the AUC, ECCAS, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), and other institutions including: International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin, (CICOS), Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), L'Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD), Institut Sous-régionale de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ISSEA), Organization for the coordination of the fight against endemic diseases in central Africa (OCEAC), Commission Economique du Bétail-de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques (CEBEVIRHA), the NEPAD Secretariat, Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), International Labour Office (ILO), UNIDO, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) UNHCR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, ECA and AfDB it was possible to take into consideration the weaknesses of the previous CIP to improving the performance of the second one developed under a result based approach.

f. Africa is in the process of developing its Post-2015 Development Agenda and UNFPA with other designated UN agencies and the AUC has been playing key role in supporting this continental initiative. As a member of the technical working group to support the AU High-Level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, UNFPA availed a staff member to the Secretariat to facilitate the development of Africa’s Common Position on Post-2015.

2. Sexual & Reproductive Health

a. Despite many achievements and successes over the past year, Africa still faces significant challenges in the area of maternal health. While Africa has only 14 per cent
of the world's population, it accounts for well over half of all maternal deaths worldwide – deaths which are overwhelmingly avoidable. In order to address this unnecessary death toll, the AU, with the support of UNFPA launched “The Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa” – CARMMA – three years ago.

The vast majority of African countries have now signed up to the initiative. The aim through CARMMA is to galvanize political action and forge new partnerships across societies to identify the reasons for maternal deaths and put in place the policies and resources to tackle them. The campaign has enjoyed tremendous support at the highest levels. In Zambia, for example, the initiative was launched personally by the President. Many countries have put CARMMA into practice, not just nationally but also at district and state levels.

The high number of unattended births – caused in part by the lack of skilled practitioners – helps explain the high levels of maternal mortality. To help tackle the shortfall, Cameroon is now opening eight midwifery schools. In a country where the last midwife had graduated in 1987, a second wave of over 200 students is now completing training. Sierra Leone has introduced free medical services for pregnant women and their babies.

We see similar success stories across the continent, with strengthened health systems, increased funding and new partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors.


With the support from AUC/NEPAD and UNFPA, the Chairperson of the AU, H.E. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin introduced an agenda item on “Reinforcing Action to Reduce Maternal, Newborn and Child Morbidity and Mortality in Africa” for the AU Summit of January 2013. This was a high level event for Heads of State and Government on CARMMA that brought together 51 of the 54 African countries and 32 Heads of State and Government and high-level policy makers. The High-Level Event celebrated the achievements of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and re-energized actions for CARMMA’s next phase. It was a celebration by African Heads of State and Government of the positive trend in the reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (41% reduction, with 39% occurring between 2005 and 2010). The event was to sustain commitments and renew and intensify maternal health interventions. It also gave opportunities for Heads of State and Government and other leaders from various sectors to renew their commitments and plan to further intensify actions to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality in the region.
The 32 Heads of State and Government who attended the event reaffirmed their commitments to Maternal and Newborn Health and acceleration of reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality in Africa. The event was attended by well over 300 participants. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon and UNFPA Executive Director Dr Babatunde Osotimehin were also at the event to resonate their support for Women’s and Children’s Health, and to acknowledge CARMMA as a concrete platform to follow up on the Every Woman Every Child initiative in Africa.

c. Despite different efforts and the significant progress made by Member States, the current rate of progress still falling short of what is required for Africa to achieve the MDG 4 and 5 targets. In this context, the AUC with the Government of South Africa convened the first International Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Conference in Africa in August 2013. UNFPA gave substantive support in the organization of this Conference. This multi-sectoral and action oriented conference provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in addressing MNCH issues, highlighted prevailing challenges, recommended innovative solutions and forged collective resolve in preparation for the post 2015 development agenda. The Conference deliberated in a multi-sectoral “Plan of Action Towards Ending Preventable Maternal, New born and Child Mortality”.

d. UNFPA and AUC organized a meeting of experts of MNCH taskforce as a follow up to the previous efforts to streamline the Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA) indicators and noted the importance of monitoring the implementation of the International Conference on MNCH Action Plan, and CARMMA M&E framework.

e. Special Summit – Abuja +12 on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: The AUC and the Federal Republic of Nigeria with support from UN Agencies including UNFPA organized a special Summit – Abuja +12 on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in July 2013 under the theme of “Ownership, Accountability and Sustainability of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa: Past, Present and the Future”. The Summit reviewed progress made and challenges faced in implementing the Abuja Declaration and deliberated among others, on the need to reinforce government response and action to deliver on the Abuja commitments; strengthen health systems; renewed commitment to explore the platform of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to facilitate Government’s action and accountability to the commitment made. During this Summit UNFPA contributed to the organization of Civil Society and Experts meetings in which outcome documents were important inputs to the declaration of the Special Summit.

f. UNFPA’s support to AUC also included generating evidence-based data and production of periodic reports and good practices. As such, UNFPA provided support in 2013 in preparation, translation, design and printing of different publications such as the 2012 and 2013 MNCH Status Reports (as was requested by the AU General Assembly in 2010); 2012 Africa Population Report; and MNCH Best Practice Report.
3. Gender & Women’s Empowerment

While much remains to be done, there have been significant advances in the last 20 years to make gender and gender inequalities visible in terms of the lives of women and girls. There is, however, a need to include men and boys in efforts made towards reaching gender equality.

a. UNFPA supported in October 2013 the **regional consultation of all RECs including Gender unit of NEPAD secretariat in Africa on: "Engaging men and boys for Gender Equality"**.

UNFPA is working to strengthen its partnership with all the RECs in Africa, including the Gender Unit in NEPAD Secretariat in order to get their support for scaling-up and widening in scope of programmes, strategies and models already known to be effective with the following 3 outcomes:

i. Familiarize the participants with the different initiatives for gender equality

ii. Strengthen the advocacy role of the RECs to support better Government in fulfilling their national, regional and international commitments for gender equality

iii. Mobilize political and financial resources for national ownership of the different initiatives.

b. **UNFPA supported the Africa Charter of the “UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls” Global Campaign of the UN Secretary General to eliminate violence against women and girls.** This Campaign was launched in Africa in early 2010 by the then UNSG and AUC Chairperson to build on AU and member states’ commitments on the subject matter. The Campaign is structured with a Campaign Secretariat supported by a Regional Steering Committee cochaired by the AUC, UNWomen, UNFPA and UNECA. UNFPA being a cochair of the Steering Committee provided the overarching operational and institutional framework for the implementation of the objectives of Campaign. In addition, in this reporting period, UNFPA has been supporting the Campaign Secretariat in building its HR capacity (by availing a consultant) to deliver its goals by reaching out member states and responsible partners.

Under the leadership of the Steering Committee, RECs, Regional Inter-governmental bodies and AU Member States, the Campaign has been launched in 21 member states with visible strides in achieving its goals.

4. Adolescent and Youth

UNFPA has been in the forefront to assist the AU in the context of NEPAD in its efforts towards healthy, skilled and dynamic youth able to compete in the global market place. Africa can achieve its development Agenda only if its demographic advantage “large population of youth” is mobilized and empowered. As a result, UNFPA’s support has been critical in the development and implementation of the African Youth Charter and Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018). During the reporting year, UNFPA has supported the Youth Division of the AUC as follows:
a) **Building HR Capacity of the Division** by availing a consultant for enhanced capacity to deliver its objectives;

b) **UNFPA extended its support to youth participation at regional events.** UNFPA has been the main driver in the organization of the AUC Youth Pre-conference on Family Planning at the margins of International Conference on Family Planning (November 2013) by sponsoring 20 young people from Africa and 4 Bureau members of the **African Conference of Ministers in Charge of Youth (COMY IV)**. This support contributed in repositioning the importance of health of young people including Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and stressing stakeholders’ support and cooperation to reach the best outcomes for young people in the region. The Pre-Conference deliberated on the theme “investing in our Future: Addressing Family Planning within SRHR of Youth for Africa”. The Pre-Conference resulted in a multi-sectoral action plan in which UNFPA is leading some of the thematic activities.

c) AUC recognizes that realization of the Agenda 2063 is possible only when its critical mass – the youth of Africa – is empowered and engaged in formal employment. Currently, the AUC runs African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC) and AUC internship programs targeting youth empowerment. In addition to these programs, AUC intends to establish another avenue (Junior Professional Internship Program) for engaging and empowering the youth through formal employment with the ultimate purpose of mainstreaming the youth into the structures of the AU by offering young people entry to professional jobs. In line with this, UNFPA has supported a consultancy to develop a comprehensive conceptual and policy framework towards the establishment of this program in line with the AUC’s vision and mandate and to contribute to empowerment of youth through employment opportunities.

5. **Support to RECs**

a. During the period under review UNFPA provided technical and financial support to RECs and Pan African Parliament. Specifically UNFPA ESARO supported Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to conduct the regional review of ICPD beyond 2014 in Maputo (Mozambique) and organize the regional meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Youth in Mbabane (Swaziland). Similarly the Fund maintains its vibrant partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East Africa Community (EAC) to address population issues hindering regional development.

b. **ECOWAS Brainstorming workshop on Migration**: On 20-21 June 2013, AfDB, in partnership with the ECOWAS Commission, organized a brainstorming workshop for migration experts and stakeholders from ECOWAS member states in Dakar, Senegal,. The workshop provided the basis for the development of a common regional migration policy. The common migration policy, when developed, will provide critical materials for the review and modernization of the ECOWAS Protocol on the Free Movement of
Persons and the Rights of Residency and Establishment. Critical issues to address include skills shortages, harnessing region-wide talent, improving remittance transfer mechanisms, as well as addressing the issue of dual citizenships, while improving the protection of migrant populations around the region in line with international conventions.