



“Efforts to slow down population growth, to reduce poverty, to achieve economic progress, to improve environmental protection, and to reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns are mutually reinforcing.”

— International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

UNFPA works in more than 140 countries, at their request, to achieve universal access to reproductive health. UNFPA is the world's largest source of international population assistance.

## POVERTY, POPULATION PRESSURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION... A TRIPLE THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- World population is more than 6.1 billion;
- 350 million couples lack access to contraceptives;
- 14,000 new HIV infections occur every day;
- The combined population of the poorest countries is expected to triple in the next 50 years.

Good reproductive health improves the status of women, which is closely linked to sustainable development. An educated woman often chooses a smaller family, reducing the human impact on the environment. Family planning and women's rights, especially reproductive rights, hold tremendous promise for progress.

### WITH UNFPA SUPPORT:

- Women in Sudan are learning skills to overcome economic and social barriers that trap them in a cycle of poverty, high fertility and limited opportunity;
- Secondary school teachers in Burkina Faso are teaching their students about the impact of people's actions on the environment;
- A youth centre in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is providing information and services to promote responsible choices and protect reproductive health;
- Churches in Botswana, where AIDS is crippling the national economy, are advocating HIV prevention and peer education;
- A census and data analysis in India is helping the Government plan policies and strategies for population programming.



UNFPA reproductive health, infant care, and counselling programmes assist women in 140 countries. UNFPA Photos.

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