

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Good practice

UNFPA, collaborating with other UN agencies through the UN Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI), is actively contributing to designing a training workshop and developing a training module in order to ensure mainstreaming of gender perspectives in girls education through CCA/UNDAF and promote partnerships among the 13 participating UN agencies.

Recent policy statements

Guided by and promoting the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), UNFPA affirms its commitment to reproductive rights, gender equality and male responsibility, and to the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. UNFPA believes that safeguarding and promoting these rights, and promoting the well-being of children, especially girl children, are development goals in themselves.

In operationalizing these principles and goals, UNFPA gives the highest priority to mainstreaming a gender perspective in all population and development policies and programmes. The objective of this approach is to fully integrate women and men's concerns and issues into population and development policies and programmes as well as to encourage their participation as beneficiaries and participants. Consequently, UNFPA will continue to address Gender Population and Development concerns as cross-sectoral issues.

Programme objectives

In order to ensure the adoption of a gender perspective that makes the goal of gender equality central to the work of the organization, UNFPA has two programme objectives: (a) to build and strengthen capacity at all levels of the Fund for gender-responsive programming; and (b) to promote a consistent and coherent approach to gender mainstreaming.

Operational activities

Reinforcing efforts at the country level to build national capacities on gender issues through strengthening the technical capacity of Country Support Team (CSTs), UNFPA conducted a workshop of training of trainers (TOT) on Gender, Population and Development (GPD) for CST Advisors in September 2001.

In order to mainstream a gender perspective in UNFPA's operations in emergency situations, UNFPA organized the Consultative Meeting on Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls in November 2001. The strategies that were developed in the meeting were fully incorporated in the UNFPA's response to the Afghanistan situation. In addition, UNFPA actively participates in the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) task force on women, peace and security to reflect GPD concerns and trends in the global initiatives.

UNFPA is piloting "A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence: A Programme Guide for Health Care Providers and Managers" in several countries in order to strengthen the incorporation of gender perspectives in general, and gender-based violence in particular in reproductive health care.

UNFPA is facilitating incorporation of social-cultural factors including gender in population planning and programme implementation by systematically mapping these issues, in the African context, through the African Social Research Programme (ASRP). This will facilitate grassroots understanding of the ICPD Programme of Action and the ICPD + 5 goals, including accelerating rapid behavioral change.

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UNFPA works with men and boys in promoting gender equitable attitudes and behaviour and relationships. UNFPA has conducted a case study on men in the military in five countries in order to increase knowledge and understanding of effective approaches to work with the military.

A gender perspective has been incorporated in UNFPA's work in HIV/AIDS. The work has been shared with other UN agencies, for instance, by providing technical input for working groups on gender and HIV/AIDS in UNICEF and WHO. It will be extended to the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team on Gender and HIV/AIDS, co-chaired by UNFPA with UNIFEM, which will develop guidelines on gender and HIV/AIDS for all UN agencies.

Other recent activities

UNFPA has revised the guidelines "UNFPA Support for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Population and Development Programmes" to ensure that gender perspectives have been appropriately mainstreamed in all the sub-programme areas of Reproductive Health, Population and Development Strategies and Advocacy. Additionally, UNFPA is developing gender-sensitive indicators for the area of Gender, Population and Development for better monitoring and evaluation of gender issues.

UNFPA actively participates in and supports inter-agency working groups and consultation meetings of other agencies in order to ensure gender mainstreaming and facilitate coordination among UN agencies. Among others, such groups include the IANWGE task forces on 1) mainstreaming of a gender perspective in common country assessment and the UN Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF); 2) gender mainstreaming in programme budgets; and 3) gender and Financing for Development. ■