

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund,

works to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Cover Photo

Youth representative at the first national peer educators training camp $\ensuremath{\mathsf{By}}$ Guo Tieliu

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Foreword

2012 is the second year of the five-year cycle of UNFPA's seventh cooperation programme in China. The year witnessed several endeavours from UNFPA and government counterparts to improve effectiveness and efficiency in programme implementation. Annual work plans were prepared and implemented in line with the blue print set out in the Country Programme Action Plan signed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and UNFPA in 2011. This Annual Report presents snapshots of highlights achieved in the implementation of these work plans together with our partners in 2012.

With a commitment to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled, UNFPA continues to focus on efforts leading to universal access to reproductive health. This includes advocating for improved reproductive health policy, strengthening maternal health services in remote ethnic areas, promoting youth sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of HIV. Significant progress was made in several pilot interventions, which have the potential to be scaled up with further support from government counterparts.

China's population dynamics are complex and require comprehensive social and economic policies. UNFPA was invited to participate in government-led policy related discussions in preparation for such comprehensive policies that respond to the complex population dynamics caused by migration, urbanization and ageing.

Reliable population data are an essential prerequisite in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure that everyone counts. UNFPA continues to support capacity building efforts of the national statistics system to generate, analyse and use disaggregated data. Furthermore, together with other partners, UNFPA engaged with the National Bureau of Statistics to perform in-depth analysis of the data from the Sixth National Population Census (2010) data sets. These are expected to lead to an updated series of the UNFPA-China publication "Facts and Figures" on youth, ageing and sex ratio at birth.

Gender, as a cross-cutting issue, threads through all the programmes in UNFPA's work in China. In addition, UNFPA works directly in two specific gender related areas, namely sex ratio at birth and genderbased violence. These issues are addressed through the lens of human rights and reproductive health. In these areas, UNFPA works through multi-sectoral mechanisms involving various stakeholders including government agencies, academia and civil society.

Another cross-cutting issue under the present country programme concerns international cooperation by China with other countries, with a particular interest in the cooperation of China with other developing countries.

Next year UNFPA will undertake a strategic review of its work in China. In mid-2013, an external review is being planned to enable us to prioritize areas of attention in alignment with the new global strategic plan of UNFPA (2014-2017). The process will also be informed by the inputs from various stakeholders, as well as the outcomes of the global International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 review and discussions on the post- Millennium Development Goals agenda.

I wish to thank the Ministry of Commerce in China for its overall coordination and support for the 7th Country Programme and UNFPA China operations in general. I also wish to thank all our national partners for the fruitful collaboration in 2012 and look forward for a successful implementation in 2013.



Mr. Arie Hoekman UNFPA Representative to China



Provide reproductive health services to migrant workers

By Li Baojun

Universal Access to Reproductive health

Everyone has the right to enjoy reproductive health, which is the basis for having healthy children, intimate relationships and happy families.

Reproductive health encompasses key areas of the UNFPA vision – that every child is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Investing in sexual and reproductive health is one of the most effective ways to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNFPA works to improve the reproductive health of population groups that are less able to access quality services and more prone to threats from unsafe sex and HIV. These include young people, migrants, and people living in remote areas.



Training for grassroots maternal health workers in Yunnan

By Chen Jianzhong

Gaps and challenges in achieving universal access to reproductive health in China

- Although China has made tremendous progress in maternal and child health and other related areas, further policy improvements are needed in order to ensure universal access to reproductive health, especially for those groups that are more vulnerable and at risk, including migrants, ethnic minorities and young people. In addition, the country has been experiencing complex population dynamics caused by a fast ageing process and mass migration from the countryside to the urban areas and from the west and central regions to the east coast. Comprehensive population policies are required to address these issues. The policy improvements related to reproductive health, including family planning, and additional policies in response to the complex population dynamics should be in line with the international commitments endorsed by 179 governments at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, Cairo, 1994).
- Monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health service delivery system and policy analysis needs to be strengthened.
- Reducing regional gaps is a key challenge in improving maternal health in China for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While the MDG target

- for maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has already been achieved in the eastern part of the country, the western part of China still lags behind. In 2010, MMR in the western region was 2.5 times of that in the eastern region.
- Family planning services have traditionally focused on married couples. As a result, the sexual and reproductive health needs of unmarried young people, especially those between 15-24 years of age, remain largely unmet in China.
- Basic Essential Obstetric Care skills at the township level and Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) at the township and county level need to be further improved.
- Skilled birth attendance is not provided to women who have to deliver at home due to economic, geographical and cultural constraints in accessing hospitals for delivery.
- Midwifery is not recognized as a profession in the healthcare system.
- Sexual and reproductive health issues need to be adequately addressed in China's humanitarian emergency response.

UNFPA China assists the Government of China to respond to the gaps and challenges in reproductive health in the areas of policy advocacy, strengthening midwifery education, exploring models of HIV prevention among vulnerable groups, promoting youth sexual and reproductive health information and services and improving maternal health among ethnic groups.

2012 Highlights

Working with and for young people to help them realize their potential

Young people have the potential to drive development. Efforts must be taken to ensure young people are healthy and have access to education, including comprehensive sexuality education, so they may understand how to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and other health risks, and have the knowledge to make informed decisions.

In 2012, to advocate for efforts for provision of contraceptives to the unmarried population, especially young people, UNFPA supported the National Population and Family Planning Commission to conduct a survey on the feasibility of making free contraceptives available to the unmarried population. According to the research, in the three pilot project sites surveyed, the needs for contraception and reproductive health are largely unmet. The research recommends that the government should create a better policy environment to ensure access of sexual and reproductive health services to unmarried young people and to allocate more funding to provide such services. Based on the existing distribution

networks, new appropriate channels should be developed to improve the accessibility of young people to free contraceptives. Pilot distribution and awareness raising activities were conducted in the pilot sites.

UNFPA works in China on policy development on youth sexual and reproductive health, and promotes a minimum standard package of youth friendly services in general hospitals, as well as sexual and reproductive health information and education in community based youth centres. We encourage youth participation in voicing their needs to policymakers and service providers.

Working with youth is particularly emphasized in UNFPA's work on youth sexual and reproductive health. Partnering with the China Family Planning Association (CFPA) and the youth-led China Youth Network (CYN), UNFPA continues to promote meaningful participation of young people as the driving force for change in improving sexual and reproductive health information and services for young people. In 2012 UNFPA-supported youth representatives from China participated in the Youth Coalition Regional Advocacy workshop in Bangkok, World AIDS Conference in Washington DC and Global Youth Forum in Bali.



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