

Choices not Chance

UNFPA Family Planning Strategy
2012-2020



FRONT COVER:

This family in Sablogo village, Burkina Faso, obtains family planning supplies through a community-based distribution agent.

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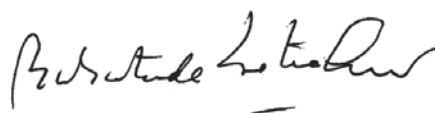


Foreword

I am very pleased to share with you, as approved by the Executive Committee, our new Family Planning Strategy. This strategy, along with our new Adolescents and Youth Strategy, I believe holds the key to UNFPA's success in the years ahead. These two strategies set out UNFPA's core commitments to the sexual and reproductive health of women and young people in a manner that is fully aligned with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and fully within the frameworks of our new Strategic Plan. They are strategies that will enable UNFPA to work in a more focused, coordinated and integrated manner for the benefit of those who need us the most: women and young people.

Our new Family Planning Strategy 2012-2020: *Choices not Chance* is a ground-breaking commitment to an area of work at the heart of our mission. It is oriented squarely to the goal of achieving universal access to rights-based voluntary family planning as part of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Over the life of this strategy, supported by numerous partnerships, we are working to expand access to information, services and supplies for women, men and young people. We are improving quality of care, generating demand and meeting unmet need. We are supporting the efforts of countries to strengthen health systems for a reliable and secure supply of modern contraceptives, going the last mile to reach the poor, marginalized and underserved. Human Rights is at the core of our implementation. Under this strategy, we are bringing the world's engagement with family planning to a new scale, reaching millions more people and contributing powerfully — over the course of the next seven years — to achieving the results promised to the world at the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning.

The Family Planning Strategy is the result of extensive consultation and input from across the organization and by our key partners within the UN system and beyond. We look forward to working together with our partners towards delivery of this strategy and, ultimately, towards delivery of a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director



Fathers in Costa Rica attend an information fair on sexual and reproductive health. Photo: UNFPA/Oscar Valverde and Laura Sanchez.

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Summary

The need: Universal access to rights-based voluntary family planning

Hundreds of millions of women, particularly in developing countries, want to delay or avoid a pregnancy but do not have access to or are not using an effective method of family planning:

- At least 222 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for family planning, meaning they want to avoid pregnancy but are not using modern contraceptives;
- In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 58 million women have an unmet need for family planning and, in the region's 39 poorest countries unmet need has actually increased since 2008;
- Each year there are 80 million unintended pregnancies and 40 million abortions worldwide;
- Every day almost 800 women and girls die of pregnancy-related complications, 99 per cent in developing countries and nearly all preventable; For every woman who dies, 20 or more experience serious complications
- Among HIV-positive women in HIV programmes the proportion of unintended pregnancies range between 51 and 92 per cent.¹

In every region in the developing world, and in pockets of disparity in middle income countries, family planning remains a priority with the promise of profound benefits.

Family planning makes our mission possible

For more information, please visit the UNFPA website: <http://www.unfpa.org/familyplanning>

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