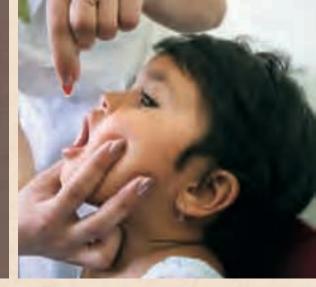
# **Country Profiles**for Population and Reproductive Health













Policy Developments and Indicators 2009/2010













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## **Foreword**

# Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health: Policy Developments and Indicators, 2009-2010

I am pleased to issue the updated *Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health: Policy Developments and Indicators 2009- 2010*, produced by UNFPA and the Population Reference Bureau to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Since the historic Cairo Conference, progress has been made in many countries to increase the enrolment of girls in school, expand access to reproductive health information and services including family planning, and promote women's empowerment and gender equality. Yet much more remains to be done. Today the poorest women face a 1 in 20 lifetime chance that they will die in childbirth. In poor African countries, nearly half of small children are malnourished, and globally, millions of girls are married off as child brides. The poorest couples often lack access to modern contraception, despite their desire to space or limit their childbearing, and financial support for family planning is far less than what is needed.

Given these realities, we need to remind political leaders of their promise made in Cairo 15 years ago to ensure universal access to reproductive health by 2015. This report highlights the need to meet pressing needs in family planning, maternal health and HIV prevention.

Investing in these areas will improve the well-being of millions of people and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. I am hopeful that the information set forth in this report will galvanize greater awareness and commitment to help make this vision a reality.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid Executive Director

United Nations Population Fund

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## Introduction

"The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And that means stronger efforts to promote women's rights, and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning"

Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 2002

## **Background**

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo created a shift in the way the world viewed the relationship between population and development. The 179 nations participating in the conference approved a 20-year Programme of Action. This visionary programme, which was later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, reflects an international consensus on the need to foster sustainable development. It emphasized the linkages between reducing poverty, empowering women, improving health, providing universal access to reproductive health services, enhancing the quality of life of the world's people and creating a better balance between population dynamics and social and economic development.

The following year, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing defined a 20-year Platform for Action that complemented and expanded on the Cairo commitments. This Platform aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, and to constructively engage men in achieving gender equality.

Five years later, at the start of the new millennium, representatives of 189 nations, including 147 heads of state or government, gathered at the United Nations for a historic Millennium Summit in 2000. They adopted an ambitious set of Millennium Development Goals, which embraced the commitments of Cairo and Beijing.

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