



**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

**THE MATERNAL HEALTH THEMATIC FUND**

Accelerating Progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5



# THE MISSION OF UNFPA

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

*UNFPA - because everyone counts.*

Cover photo by Lynsey Addario/VII

A pregnant Congolese woman seen at her home in the neighborhood of Birere, Goma, North Kivu province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. April 10, 2008.

Table of Contents photo by GMB Akash/Panos Picture

A husband visits his wife and child at the Fistula Repair Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in Bangladesh. 2005.

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We thank you all and look forward to further collaboration and active participation in the future.

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>AMDD</b>	Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program – Columbia University
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Surveys
<b>EmOC</b>	Emergency obstetric care
<b>EmONC</b>	Emergency obstetric and newborn care
<b>HMIS</b>	Health management information system
<b>ICM</b>	International Confederation of Midwives
<b>IHP+</b>	International Health Partnership
<b>IMPACT</b>	Initiative for Maternal Mortality Programme Assessment – University of Aberdeen
<b>H4</b>	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank
<b>GPRHCS</b>	Global Programme on Reproductive Health Commodity Security
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and evaluation
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MHTF</b>	Maternal Health Thematic Fund
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal mortality ratio
<b>MNH</b>	Maternal and newborn health
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MPoA</b>	Maputo Plan of Action
<b>NPC</b>	Non-physician clinician
<b>OF</b>	Obstetric Fistula (Global Campaign to End Fistula)
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and reproductive health
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





A Masai woman in the Rift Valley province, Kenya. Photo by Seamus Murphy/VII.

# FOREWORD

Werner Haug, Director Technical Division, UNFPA

We, as, a global community have committed to improving maternal health. More concretely, as mapped out in Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5, we have agreed to reduce, by 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio by three quarters, using 1990 as a baseline. To this overall goal another target was added in 2007 — that of ensuring universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

To back up our commitment to maternal health, two UNFPA initiatives — the Global Programme on Reproductive Health Commodity Security and the Maternal Health Thematic Fund — represent a focused effort to accelerate progress towards MDG 5 in the 60 countries that have the highest maternal mortality and are furthest from achieving universal access to reproductive health. Toward this end, UNFPA complements its core resources where the need is greatest to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted and every birth is safe.

The Maternal Health Thematic Fund (MHTF) became operational in 2008, and 2009 represents the first full year of operations. As this annual report illustrates, significant progress can be made by adopting proven strategies — including family planning, skilled care during childbirth (particularly midwifery services), expanded access and utilization of emergency obstetric and newborn care — combined with partnerships for better coordination under national leadership.

To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of country support, reduce administrative and transaction costs, and foster closer alignment with government procedures, the Midwifery Programme (launched in 2008 with generous support from the Swedish government and since supported by other donors as well) and the Campaign to End Fistula (launched in 2003 with multi-donor support) were programmatically integrated into the Maternal Health Thematic Fund in April 2009 and September 2009, respectively. Both initiatives will continue to operate as targeted efforts in programme countries under the umbrella of the Maternal Health Thematic Fund. As such, the 2009 MHTF Annual Report reflects outcomes and achievements of the Maternal Health Thematic Fund activities, including the Midwifery Programme and the Campaign to End Fistula.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank countries, donors, WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, other partner organizations, and all concerned colleagues for this effective collaboration.



Young girls in Afghanistan. Photo by Lynsey Addario/VII.

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