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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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We express our sincere thanks to country, regional and global colleagues in the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the World Bank for their invaluable teamwork and for jointly supporting countries in the spirit of Delivering as One.

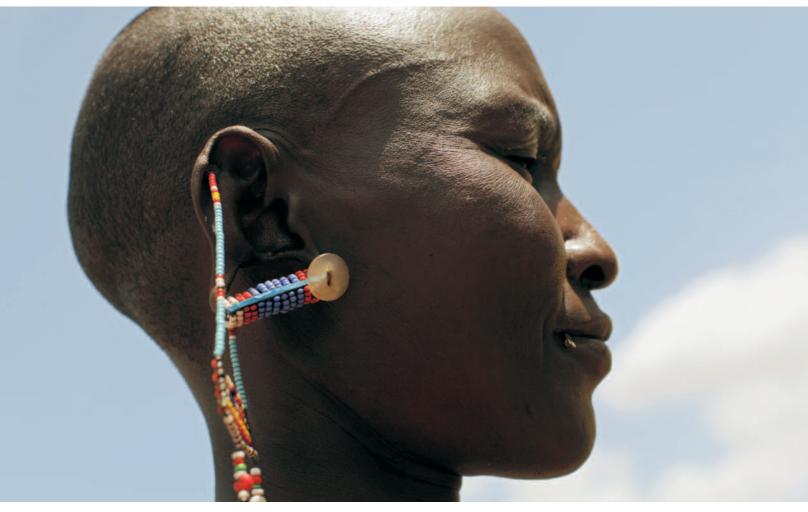
Sincere gratitude also goes to our development partners for their collaboration and support in championing MNH issues and for their technical contributions: Columbia University's Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) Program, EngenderHealth, Family Care International (FCI), the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), Immpact (Aberdeen University), Johns Hopkins University (JHPIEGO), the many partners of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the PMNCH Secretariat, and national and regional institutions.

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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

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