



UNFPA ANNUAL REPORT

2007

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/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA—because everyone counts.



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A mother and child at an AIDS Day celebration in San José, Costa Rica.

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Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

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Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

Reproductive Health and Safe Motherhood: © Carina Wint for UNFPA

A UNFPA-supported maternity clinic on the outskirts of Portoviejo, Ecuador.

Culture, Gender and Human Rights: © Don Hinrichsen/UNFPA

Women in front of a UNFPA-supported women's centre and shelter run by the Mauritanian Association for Mother and Child Health in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Helping in Emergencies: © Sven Torfinn/Panos/UNFPA

A UNFPA-supported health clinic on the outskirts of a camp for internally displaced persons in Darfur, Sudan.

Poverty, Population and Development: © Dima Gavyrsh

Children jumping over a garbage-strewn puddle in Senegal.

Building Support: Photo courtesy of JOICFP

During her June 2007 visit to Pakistan, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori visited participants in a UNFPA-supported poverty-alleviation project run by the Family Planning Association of Pakistan in Lahore. The women in this micro-credit scheme receive small loans to start their own businesses.

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Foreword



The United Nations Charter, the treaty that established the United Nations in 1945, proclaims the equal rights of men and women. Since then, the importance of empowering women has been reaffirmed in international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Experience worldwide has taught us that we cannot achieve the goals for which the United Nations was founded, such as respect for human rights, peace and security and improved living standards, unless we invest in women.

And yet, women's potential remains compromised by gender-based violence, discrimination and high rates of maternal death. That is why the work of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is so vital. Every day, UNFPA provides leadership in the work to realize the rights of women worldwide. In close partnership with other United Nations organizations, the Fund addresses the need for better reproductive health and safe motherhood, protects and expands women's rights, and calls on world leaders to take population issues into account.

The year 2007 marked the halfway point for the Millennium Development Goals. So far, world progress towards meeting the goals has been uneven. UNFPA's contributions in the areas of reproductive health and rights, and to preventing violence against women, are critical to achieving these targets. In 2007 alone, UNFPA made significant progress towards raising awareness and motivating action on Millennium Development Goal 5, which aims to improve maternal health and stem the loss of women as they give birth. The ultimate goal of the United Nations is to build a world in which everyone has the opportunity and the means to be the best they can and want to be.

UNFPA exists because everyone counts. It works to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. This report documents UNFPA's progress in these vital areas, and I recommend it to world leaders and individuals alike.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki-moon Ban".

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Overview

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, promotes the right of every individual to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. The Fund works to achieve this goal by supporting countries in their use of population data to formulate sound policies and programmes. We work to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.



Our unique and vital mission, focused particularly on empowering women and young people, is more important than ever. Experience and analysis continue to demonstrate an undeniable link between sustainable development and population dynamics, reproductive health and gender equality.

In 2007, UNFPA assisted 159 developing and transition countries and territories to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services and supplies. Systematic efforts to promote gender equality and integrate population analysis into development plans and programmes yielded concrete results.

Donors worldwide continued to show their confidence in our performance and mission. In 2007, UNFPA received record contributions from a record number of countries, with 182 countries contributing a total of \$457.1 million.

In 2007, UNFPA continued to provide critical leadership to advance the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNFPA made a special year-long push to improve maternal and newborn health. A concrete step forward was taken with the addition of the target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 in the MDG monitoring framework under MDG 5 to improve maternal health. This benchmark will hold our leaders accountable for the health of women.

Throughout the year, UNFPA promoted gender equality and reproductive rights and worked with partners to address violence against women. The Fund developed a new strategy, based on experience and evidence, for working with governments and partners to promote gender equality.

Throughout the year, UNFPA responded to humanitarian crises, from conflicts to natural disasters. We provided humanitarian support to 54 countries in 2007, with particular attention paid to promoting women's reproductive health, addressing gender-based violence and preventing HIV infection in emergency situations. As part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UNFPA issued guidelines to ensure that mental health and psychosocial support reach those in crisis. The Fund also launched a three-year capacity-building strategy to integrate the ICPD principles of population, gender and reproductive health into crisis response and recovery efforts.

UNFPA continued to prioritize the needs of youth, especially adolescent girls. Nearly 30 countries have now established Youth Advisory Panels to promote dialogue with young people. A new alliance of United Nations organizations, mobilized by UNFPA, will increase investment in adolescent girls through government and civil society partnerships.

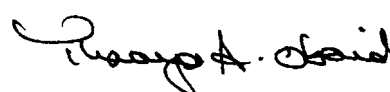
To ensure that social investments benefit the poor, UNFPA promoted the collection and use of data disaggregated by gender, age and income. In 2007, UNFPA secured resources to support the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in 63 countries, and provided direct financial support in 47 others. The Fund sought to include population analysis in development and poverty reduction plans. UNFPA's *State of the World Population 2007* report called attention to the challenges resulting from rapid urban growth, particularly in developing countries, and offered policy recommendations.

In October, the leadership role played by UNFPA at the Women Deliver Conference in London generated heightened commitment to improve maternal health. At the conference, the United Kingdom pledged 100 million pounds to UNFPA over the next five years to improve reproductive health commodity security. To boost global efforts to save women's lives, UNFPA established a new trust fund to mobilize resources to strengthen health systems and reduce maternal mortality. The Fund also joined a global partnership to accelerate and better coordinate action to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

In line with United Nations reform efforts, UNFPA improved its accountability, oversight and management and sharpened its field focus on results. A new strategic plan, with goals and objectives closely linked to the ICPD and the MDGs, now charts the Fund's direction for 2008 through 2011 to support nationally led and owned development. The Fund also finalized a plan for reorganization to bring us closer to the countries and people we serve.

UNFPA is making progress, but much more remains to be done, especially at the country level and within communities. Despite tremendous scientific and technological advances and unprecedented global wealth, pregnancy and childbirth remain the leading cause of death and disability among women in developing countries. Despite increased funding and proven prevention methods, HIV infection rates continue to rise among women. In every region, widespread discrimination and gender-based violence prevent women from realizing their human rights and full potential. Without increased political will and additional resources to address these areas and greater focus placed on integrated community-based services, there will be no hope of achieving the targets set for the MDGs.

UNFPA is proud of our many accomplishments in 2007, and we remain committed to supporting country-led development and reaching people who are most in need.



Thoraya Ahmed Obaid
Executive Director, UNFPA



Chapter I

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Saving lives by preventing maternal deaths and HIV, providing reproductive health supplies and services and investing in young people.

The right to reproductive health is fundamental. Yet reproductive health problems are the leading cause of ill health and death for women of child-bearing age in less developed regions. In poor countries, women still suffer from unintended pregnancies, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and from maternal death and disability. Young people, the world's greatest resource for creating a better future, continue to face problems in accessing reproductive health care and services.

UNFPA envisions a world in which every child is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. High-level international agreements, such as the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, call for action to improve maternal and reproductive health. World leaders widely acknowledge that progress in these areas will make a major contribution to economic, social and political development.



In the past few years, the number of Vietnamese women who die during childbirth has decreased. However, women of the country's ethnic minorities remain vulnerable, because they often live in remote areas that lack clinics and trained birth attendants. Tuong delivered her first two children at home, without family, friends or medical assistance. When delivering her third child, she was able to take advantage of a clinic supported by UNFPA and New Zealand's International Aid & Development Agency, which offers ethnic minority women routine check-ups and obstetric care, including assisted deliveries.

No Woman Should Die Giving Life

Despite global promises to improve maternal health and prevent maternal deaths, one woman dies every minute during pregnancy or childbirth. This is especially tragic since we know that access to family planning, skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care could save a significant number of these women.

Reproductive health and maternal health are at the core of the UNFPA mission. In close partnership with governments, other United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNFPA supports activities to prevent maternal death in some 90 countries. The Fund provides technical and financial assistance to support family planning, advocate health reforms, upgrade health facilities, train midwives and doctors, mobilize communities and promote women's rights.

The year 2007 marked the midpoint of the Millennium Development Goals and the 20th Anniversary of the Safe Motherhood Initiative. UNFPA seized these occasions as opportunities to build the political backing and financial momentum needed to realize MDG 5, which aims to reduce maternal mortality by 75 per cent by 2015. The United Nations General Assembly formally included a new target, to achieve universal

access to reproductive health, in the monitoring and reporting framework of MDG 5. This target helps in holding countries accountable for their efforts to save women's lives.

An all-out worldwide push by UNFPA during 2007 resulted in other major achievements in the effort to prevent the deaths of mothers and newborns. UNFPA provided a much-needed global wake-up call by repeating the message, "No woman should die giving life".

- Led by its Executive Director, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA joined dozens of partner organizations to convene Women Deliver, a global conference held in London in October. More than 1,800 representatives from 109 countries participated in the conference to increase the political will and financial investments to save lives and improve the health of women, mothers and infants around the world. The conference yielded strong new pledges by donors, government officials, corporations, foundations and NGOs to invest in women's health.
- During Women Deliver, Japan committed to placing global health at the centre of the 2008 Group of Eight (G-8) Summit in Japan.
- UNFPA joined in launching the International Health Partnership, a renewed global push to meet the health-related targets of the MDGs. Ms. Obaid, Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United

Kingdom, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway and leaders from major health organizations took part in the launch in London in September.

- UNFPA, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank, released updated figures on maternal deaths in October. The statistics provided evidence of the persistence of maternal mortality globally, and of the need for urgent action to improve maternal health in order to prevent women from dying during pregnancy and childbirth.
- To boost global efforts to save women's lives, UNFPA established a new trust fund for maternal health. The fund encourages developed countries and private sponsors to contribute nearly \$500 million to reduce the number of women dying during pregnancy and childbirth in 75 countries.
- In June, UNFPA joined the United Kingdom, the European Commission, UNICEF and WHO in a new effort to save lives and improve the health and well-being of mothers and newborns in Bangladesh. The five-year project, supported with \$31.2 million from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and the European Commission, will boost high-quality health services in a country where maternal and neonatal deaths remain high.
- A joint reproductive health initiative by UNFPA, the European Commission, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States has improved the lives of the poor and the underserved in eight African and two Caribbean countries by expanding their access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health care.
- To reduce maternal and child deaths in the Arab region, a new UNFPA initiative seeks to build the capacity of health planners and address the gender

investments, particularly when associated with high-quality pregnancy and delivery care. Family planning can reduce the risk of death and morbidity associated with pregnancy and childbirth by one third. It can also prevent 2.7 million infant deaths a year, help to reduce poverty, and advance environmental sustainability by stabilizing population growth.

Despite the life-saving power of family planning services, its funding has drastically declined. According to the most recent statistics, the percentage of funds allocated to family planning in all population assistance dropped from 55 per cent in 1995 to 8 per cent in 2006 – a fall, in absolute dollar terms, from \$723 million in 1995 to \$551 million in 2006.

In 2007:

- In an effort to expand family planning programmes, 140 of UNFPA's country offices supported activities to improve the access to and quality of family planning services. They also widened the choice of available contraceptives by supplying implants, injectables and female condoms to a number of countries.
- UNFPA increased national capacity for developing and updating family planning protocols and integrating them into health systems. In Zambia, UNFPA contributed to the revision of family planning guidelines and protocols. In Georgia, the Fund supported the development and updating of guidelines and protocols for reproductive health services according to international standards.
- UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO, the United States Agency for International Development and other partners, contributed to *Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers*. Introduced in multiple languages in more than 40 countries, the handbook offers health-care professionals guidance on how to

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