



UNFPA ANNUAL REPORT 2005





# The 2005 World Summit

We, Heads of State and Government, gathered at the United Nations, New York,  
14-16 September, 2005, commit to:

- Achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.
- Integrate this goal into strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty.
- Resolve to adopt by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.
- Remain convinced that progress for women is progress for all.
- Reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals.
- Resolve to promote gender equality and eliminate gender discrimination by:
  - Eliminating gender inequalities in schools;
  - Guaranteeing the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property;
  - Ensuring equal access to reproductive health;
  - Promoting women's equal access to work;
  - Eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; and
  - Promoting increased women's representation in government decision-making bodies.
- Actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres.
- Advance the human rights of women and children in every possible way, including by bringing gender and child-protection perspectives into the human rights agenda.
- Call upon States to continue their efforts to eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality.
- Reaffirm that all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural spheres, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Fully implement all commitments established by the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS through stronger leadership, the scaling up of a comprehensive response to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, care and treatment, and support the mobilization of additional resources from national, bilateral, multilateral and private sources.

# Foreword

At the 2005 World Summit, heads of state and government reaffirmed the principle that equality and women's empowerment are both ends in themselves and cornerstones of development. And they declared that "progress for women is progress for all."

Progress for women and their families has been the primary focus of the United Nations Population Fund since its inception. The Fund works to save women's lives and protect their health. It strives to ensure that every child is a wanted child, whether a boy or a girl; that every pregnancy and birth is healthy; that every woman and young person remains HIV-free; that the rights of every girl and woman are respected; and that every family has the hope of a strong and stable future—with real choices and opportunities.

UNFPA's work is crucial for the advancement of women, but it also contributes powerfully to our broader quest for sustainable human development. That is why the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document highlighted the role of reproductive health in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, the Summit emphasized universal reproductive health as a means to reduce maternal and child mortality, improve maternal health, promote gender equality, combat HIV/AIDS and eradicate poverty.

This report documents UNFPA's work in these important areas over the past year. It serves not only as a valuable reference, but as a call to action. I encourage Member States and individuals alike to strengthen support for the organization's vital efforts.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K. Annan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kofi A. Annan  
*Secretary-General of the United Nations*

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## Photos:

**Cover:** © John Isaac

An Indian mother and her daughter.

**Inside Cover:** © Eskinder Debebe/United Nations

More than 170 Heads of State and Government convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005 for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly—known as the 2005 World Summit. The Summit was the largest gathering of world leaders in history.

**Foreword:** © Sergey Bermeniev/United Nations

Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Overview:** © Eskinder Debebe/United Nations

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

**Improving Reproductive Health,  
Making Motherhood Safer:** © Tamas Revesz

A health educator working with Jambi Huasi, a local non-governmental organization, explains pregnancy-related issues and care to a group of women and men in the small community of Angla, about 40 kilometres from Otavalo, Ecuador.

**Intensifying HIV Prevention:** © Alvaro Serrano/UNFPA

"Nothing Spreads AIDS Faster than Silence" is the slogan on T-shirts worn by adolescents attending a peer education session on HIV prevention. Such sessions, held at the UMATI Youth Centre in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, are supported by UNFPA and the African Youth Alliance.

**Assisting in Emergencies:** © UNFPA Pakistan

In the wake of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, UNFPA distributed more than 200,000 basic hygiene kits to women in affected areas. Each kit contained a towel, shawl, soap, cotton wool and a roll of gauze.

**Poverty, Population and Development:**  
© Diego Goldberg/Chasing the Dream

A young Moroccan man poses with his parents inside their home in the small village of El Borj in the High Atlas. He dreams of one day earning enough money to marry and start a family of his own.

**Building Support:** © Lucian Read/WpN/  
On behalf of UNFPA

Australian singer Natalie Imbruglia, a spokesperson for the UNFPA-led Campaign to End Fistula, shares a laugh with recovering fistula patient Zainab Ibrahim, whom she met on a previous visit to Nigeria.



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# Overview

UNFPA welcomed exceptional support for its work and mandate in 2005. The largest-ever gathering of world leaders resolved to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, promote gender equality and end discrimination against women. This endorsement at the 2005 World Summit affirmed the goal of reproductive health for all, as envisioned at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. World leaders agreed that reproductive health is essential to reducing poverty, improving maternal health, reducing maternal and child death, empowering women and combating HIV/AIDS.



The United Nations Millennium Project, commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General to propose the best strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, recommended that the world “expand access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning and contraceptive information and services, and close existing funding gaps for supplies and logistics”.

And there is one more sign of support that I am particularly proud of: More countries than ever contributed to UNFPA in 2005. With a record-breaking 172 donor countries, including every country in sub-Saharan Africa, UNFPA enjoys the broadest base of support of any United Nations organization.

Such global support is encouraging. It promises that women and young people will be raised higher on the global agenda, and confirms that investing in health and human rights is not an expenditure; it is an investment that brings high returns for development, peace and security.

The *UNFPA Annual Report 2005* highlights our work with partners in 148 countries. It provides an overview of challenges and achievements throughout the year, in policy and programming and in efforts to harmonize cooperation with our United Nations partners. Among many activities, the report presents our response to the tsunami and earthquake disasters in Asia, features our efforts to end obstetric fistula and expand access to reproductive health, addresses our work with governments to integrate population trends and dynamics into their development plans, notes our endorsement of the Global Task Team’s recommendations and an intensified HIV/AIDS response, and introduces our role in the new global Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health.

This environment of support, and the continued needs of women, men and children around the world, inspire UNFPA to strengthen its contributions as a member of the United Nations family, a partner to countries and an advocate for the vulnerable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thoraya A. Obaid".

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid  
Executive Director, UNFPA





# Improving Reproductive Health, Making Motherhood Safer

Access to reproductive health is key to reducing maternal death, improving maternal health and empowering women, declared the largest-ever gathering of leaders at the 2005 World Summit.

Worldwide each year, more than half a million women die from complications of childbirth and pregnancy. AIDS claims three million lives. And in total, illness and death from poor reproductive health account for one fifth of the global burden of disease, and nearly one third for all women.

This year, leaders worldwide committed to change. “Progress for women is progress for all,” they declared at the 2005 World Summit. Five years after the Millennium Declaration, world leaders reaffirmed the need to keep gender equality, HIV/AIDS and maternal health at the top of the global agenda. They recognized that reproductive health is at the heart of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), underpinning every goal.

## PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning saves lives. Currently, 200 million women have an unmet need for safe and effective contraceptive services. If these women used effective contraception, more than 100,000 maternal deaths—one fifth of the world total—could be avoided each year. In addition, when women can time and space their pregnancies, families are smaller and more prosperous and children are healthier and better educated.

- The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) revolutionized women’s access to reproductive health information and services, including family planning, which is a key part of many UNFPA-supported programmes. In Armenia, a multi-pronged project emphasized an integrated array of services, from family planning to HIV prevention. In Nepal, UNFPA strengthened mothers’ groups to support women’s leadership in seeking family planning and other reproductive health services. In the Philippines, UNFPA support expanded services at the Gattaran Birthing Centres and Pre-natal’s Forum to include family planning, treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and maternal and child health.
- In China, officials in Changjiang, Hainan Province, reported fewer abortions and a marked increase in hospital deliveries only 16 months after a UNFPA-supported pilot initiative led to the lifting of birth-spacing rules. Access to contraceptives, a focus on maternal health, and advocacy to counter son preference supported progress.
- UNFPA funded the construction of two regional contraceptive warehouses in Swaziland, and identified gaps in contraceptive management and security. UNFPA also procured condoms for dual protection against unwanted pregnancy and HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and helped finalize a national condom strategy.

## MAKING MOTHERHOOD SAFER

Universal access to reproductive health, including family planning, is the starting point for maternal health and saving women’s lives. UNFPA makes motherhood safer with a focus on family planning, skilled attendance at birth and access to emergency obstetric care. Maternal health also frees women to pursue opportunities in work and education and make decisions that improve life for their families.

- A new global initiative, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, was announced at an official side event during the 2005 World Summit. This group of five United Nations agencies, including UNFPA, and many other partners, will mobilize global and local commitment and action to reduce deaths among mothers and children, promote universal coverage of essential interventions, and advocate for increased resources.
- Mobile reproductive health clinics made motherhood safer in remote villages in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, with six-member travelling teams of doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators rotating visits to 107 villages in the poorest parts of the three south-eastern provinces. The UNFPA-supported project was carried out with the Lao Women’s Union and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
- In Eritrea, emergency obstetric skills gained by 140 nurses and midwives in a three-week in-service training programme improved care during pregnancy, skilled attendance at births and access to obstetric fistula repair.
- For indigenous communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNFPA continued to address disproportionately high rates of maternal and infant deaths, using culturally sensitive approaches. In Panama, the first emergency obstetric care unit in the Comarca Ngöbe Buglé region served 32 indigenous communities. In Otavalo, Ecuador, the Jambi Huasi

clinic provided modern and traditional medical treatment and family planning to Quecha-speaking descendents of the Incas—as many as 1,000 people per month in 2005. In Bolivia, a bilingual literacy programme designed to reach 8,000 indigenous women continued to build understanding of sexual and reproductive health.

- In Jamaica, persons with disabilities were the focus of a reproductive health programme to raise awareness and provide services. The UNFPA-supported effort sensitized parents, health and social workers, and school guidance counsellors to the needs of adolescents with mental and physical disabilities. It was carried out with the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities.
- Midwives in Indonesia used small grants to pay for emergency transport from rural villages to obstetric facilities—an activity of the Mother Friendly Movement, a national initiative supported by UNFPA since 1997 that has trained midwives, upgraded health facilities, and raised awareness of the need for rapid action in case of labour complications.

- The world's highest maternal death rate occurs in Badakshan, Afghanistan, where 40 per cent of girls marry by the age of 15. In 2005, UNFPA launched a campaign to persuade mullahs in the remote province to speak out against child marriage, and continued to train health workers in emergency obstetric care and offer vocational training for girls.

- The African Union Ministers of Health approved a continental reproductive health policy framework that will support the new UNFPA Maternal Health Initiative. The initiative supports African countries in accelerating progress towards the MDGs; developing and implementing national road maps for maternal health; and scaling up programmes for family planning, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric care and obstetric fistula.

- African lawmakers from 38 countries, meeting in Chad in May, adopted the N'Djamena Declaration, pledging to do their utmost to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015 as progress towards ending poverty and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

## ENDING OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Adequate maternal health care could prevent obstetric fistula from ever harming another mother and child. Caused by prolonged obstructed labour without medical help, obstetric fistula causes chronic incontinence that can devastate lives if left untreated. The UNFPA-led Campaign to End Fistula advances maternal health in more than 30 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Arab region.

- In February 2005, a special event in Nigeria galvanized action to end obstetric fistula. The “Fistula Fortnight” featured two weeks of advocacy, treatment and training that captured local and global attention. Surgeons at four medical centres in northern Nigeria repaired fistulas in 545 women, and more than 100

Photo: Richard Stanley



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