## UNFPA 2000 Contents

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# THE MISSION OF

Part of UNFPA's mission is to ensure that couples, like this Indonesian husband and wife, have the information and the means to decide the number and spacing of their children. Photo: Chieko Ishikawa

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) extends assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and other countries at their request to help them address reproductive health and population issues, and raises awareness of these issues in all countries, as it has since its inception.

UNFPA's three main areas of work are: to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to all couples and individuals on or before the year 2015; to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programming; to promote awareness of population and development issues, and to advocate for the mobilization of the resources and political will necessary to accomplish its area of work.

UNFPA is guided by, and promotes, the principles of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In particular, UNFPA affirms its commitment to reproductive rights, gender equality and male responsibility, and to the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. UNFPA believes that promoting and safeguarding these rights, and promoting the well-being of children, especially girl children, are development goals in themselves. All couples and individuals have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children as well as the right to the information and means to do so.

UNFPA is convinced that meeting these goals will contribute to improving people's quality of life and to the universally accepted aim of stabilizing world population. We also believe that these goals are an integral part of all efforts to achieve sustained and sustainable social and economic development that meets human needs, ensures well-being and protects the natural resources on which all life depends. UNFPA recognizes that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as expressed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and in other internationally agreed instruments.

UNFPA, as the lead United Nations organization for the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, is fully committed to working in partnership with governments, all parts of the United Nations system, development banks, bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society. UNFPA strongly supports the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the implementation of all relevant United Nations decisions.

UNFPA will assist in the mobilization of resources from both developed and developing countries, following the commitments made by all countries in the Programme of Action to ensure that the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development are met.

## foreword

For more than 30 years, the United Nations Population Fund has sought to improve reproductive health and family planning in the developing world and to help all countries find an equitable, sustainable balance between population and development. In the year 2000, UNFPA provided assistance to 142 developing nations, with special emphasis on increasing the quality of reproductive health services, ending gender discrimination and violence, formulating effective population policies and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The impact of AIDS in particular illustrated the need for greater investments in public health. Such investments are crucial if we are to break the debilitating cycle of ill health and poverty. And to make the most of such investments, we must give priority to women and make sure they have the freedom, knowledge and power to make healthy decisions. When women have no say, they cannot protect themselves from HIV infection or plan their families and futures. But when women are empowered through better education and health care, the benefits are immediate: families are healthier, and so are countries.

This annual report documents UNFPA's diverse efforts as the world's largest multilateral source of population funding and largest supplier of condoms and other reproductive health commodities. By helping people make informed, responsible and free choices about their reproductive health, UNFPA brings us closer each day to achieving the population and development goals we have set for ourselves and our planet.

Kofi A. Annan Secretary-General of the United Nations



Photo: UN/DPI / Milton Grant



Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA's new Executive Director, assumed office in January 2001.

**Photo: United Nations** 

In this era of HIV/AIDS, individual reproductive health is more important than ever. For many people it is a matter of life and death. While we have made great progress, every day reminds us how far we have to go.

The United Nations Population Fund has a clear vision and commitment to improve reproductive health and to advance the empowerment of women. One of our greatest challenges is to forge a global network of alliances to ensure that people have the information, services and supplies they need to make informed, responsible and free choices about their sexual and reproductive health. Also critical is advocacy for better, more equitable laws and policies.

In 2000, UNFPA continued to support countries in the development of population and development strategies, and data collection, analysis and policy formulation. We helped launch 10 new country programmes in Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazahkstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. We developed a new system to track progress in reproductive health and other key national population indicators to better measure progress in meeting the international goals agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the benchmarks established at the special session of the General Assembly on ICPD+5.

To address the challenges of HIV/AIDS, we mobilized resources to safeguard youth and intensified efforts to integrate AIDS prevention into reproductive health and family planning programmes. A \$57 million partner grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation helps us protect youth through scaled-up projects in four hard-hit African countries. The fiveyear initiative will serve as a model for other national programmes worldwide.

## overview

A top priority in 2000 was the development of a new global strategy for reproductive health commodity security. Without adequate supplies, we cannot meet the international goal of universal access to reproductive health care by 2015 and cannot prevent HIV infection and unwanted pregnancies. In response to the new strategy, the Fund received nearly \$80 million in contributions from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to meet the needs of developing countries for reproductive health commodities.

To help millions of people fleeing armed conflict and natural disaster, UNFPA strengthened emergency reproductive health services. We sent safe delivery kits to flood victims in Venezuela, safe motherhood supplies to cyclone victims in Zimbabwe, and reproductive health commodities to Eritrean refugees in Sudan. In all, UNFPA dispatched emergency reproductive health supplies to an unprecedented 30 crisis sites in 20 countries.

To protect the health of mothers and decrease maternal mortality, UNFPA joined with Columbia University and other partners in 2000 to expand the availability and use of emergency obstetric care for complications of pregnancy and childbirth. We mounted new initiatives in Asia, Africa and Latin America to promote skilled birth attendance at delivery and to make safe motherhood a reality.

All our efforts continue to build on the momentum created by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the legacy of my predecessor, Dr. Nafis Sadik. We are mobilizing human and financial resources to provide universal access to primary education and reproductive health care. We are working with both men and women to break the vicious cycle of discrimination and gender-based violence. Many of our projects focus on young people, who need better information and services.

I begin my term as UNFPA's Executive Director determined to strengthen existing partnerships and build new alliances so we can achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. We must work together for a world where human needs are met, wellbeing is ensured and the natural resources on which all life depends are protected.

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Thoraya Ahmed Obaid Executive Director United Nations Population Fund



#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: Speaking village in Ecuador, Dr. Mercedes Muenala, communications officer with the clinic Jambi Huasi (Health House), demonstrates how the female reproductive tract works. Photo: UNFPA/Don Hinrichsen DEDDIE SON DEDDIE SON DEDDIE SON DEDDIE DEDDIE SON DEDDIE SON DEDDIE Speaking village in Ecuador, Dr. Mercedes Muenala, communications officer with the clinic Jambi Huasi (Health House), demonstrates how the female reproductive tract works. Photo: UNFPA/Don Hinrichsen

The United Nations Population Fund works around the world to provide reproductive health services so people can stay healthy and plan their families and futures. Such care includes family planning, care during pregnancy and birth, counselling and prevention of infertility, prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), and dealing with the health consequences of unsafe abortion. In many countries, our programmes focus on meeting the needs of young people and hard to reach and marginalized populations who are not targetted by other projects.

#### ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

There are over 1 billion youth aged 15 to 24, and they need information and services to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. UNFPA works with partners to develop effective, youthfriendly, gender-sensitive services and programmes for young people. Because adolescent reproductive and sexual health is a taboo topic in many cultures, the support of parents, teachers, local leaders and health service providers is essential. But our most important partners are young people themselves. Their involvement in project planning, implementation and evaluation is critical to success.

Reproductive health programmes provide people with the information and services they need to protect their health and the health of their families. But in many developing countries such services are severely limited, and the consequences are tragic. Over 52 million women in Africa, Asia and Latin America deliver their babies each year without a nurse, midwife or doctor present. Some 514,000 women die during or after pregnancy because they did not receive prompt treatment, and at least 7 million women suffer infection or injury. More than 330 million people acquire a sexually transmitted disease each year. Over 350 million women do not have access to a range of safe and effective contraceptive methods. Up to half of the nearly 175 million pregnancies each year are unwanted or ill-timed. Half of all new HIV infections occur in young people under age 25.

#### **EVERY MINUTE**

- 380 women become pregnant: half of them did not plan or wish the pregnancy;
- 110 women experience a pregnancy-related complication;
- 100 women have an abortion, of which 40 are unsafe;
- 11 people are newly infected with HIV/AIDS;
- 1 woman dies from a pregnancy-related cause.



Secondary school girls in Mongolia reading *Love*, a UNFPA-supported magazine focusing on careers, dating, family relationships, and reproductive health. With a circulation of 150,000, it's the most popular magazine among adolescents in Mongolia. Photo: UNFPA/Don Hinrichsen

- In Sri Lanka, a survey found that only half of 15- to 29-yearolds were aware that condoms protected against HIV/AIDS and other diseases. A UNFPA-funded project that began in October 1998 has provided more than 100,000 young people with reproductive health information, and 32,000 have received specific counselling. Services are provided by 1,248 peer educators, 234 trained part-time counsellors, and 52 medical doctors.
- In Sudan, where armed conflict has forced thousands of young people from their homes, the "In-and-Out of School Youth" project has educated youth about reproductive health issues through a mobile exhibit that has travelled to youth camps in over 12 states.
- In Iran, 12- to 14-year-old girls in 14 provinces were trained in adolescent reproductive health, with the involvement of parents and community and religious leaders.
- In Ecuador, indigenous youth are being reached for the first time through the UNFPA-funded Jambi Huasi clinic, which combines traditional and Western medicine.
- In Nairobi, Kenya, a UNFPA-supported project turned 11 health clinics into "youth-friendly" facilities by expanding working hours and providing separate rooms for youth counselling. Twenty-one educators and 206 service providers were trained in 2000 in adolescent reproductive health.

- In Angola, the JIRO youth project conducted an awareness campaign about condoms, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and other reproductive health issues. Eight youthfriendly health centres were established and over 100 peer counsellors were trained. Over 42,000 adolescents sought guidance on prenatal care, family planning and the diagnosis of STDs.
- In Guyana, 323 health staff, teachers/community workers, peer helpers and parents were trained in adolescent reproductive health.
- In Nepal, where close to a third of the population is between the ages of 10 and 24, reproductive and sexual health services designed specifically for young people were initiated for the first time in September 2000. Peer groups have been formed in 72 villages, and youth-friendly information centres have been established with the support and assistance of the community.
- In Viet Nam, where HIV/AIDS and abortion rates are high among youth, a UNFPA-supported project in Hanoi and Ninh Binh renovated and equipped 18 community health centres in 2000 and distributed over 8,000 "parent bags" with "It's no secret" materials to encourage better communication between parents and adolescents about reproductive health.
- In Kampala, Uganda, over 2,000 adolescents were counselled on reproductive health issues at the UNFPA-funded Nagura Health Centre and another 1,000 were treated for sexually transmitted diseases.

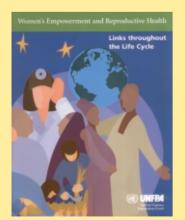
#### YOUTH CHART REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PLAN FOR EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

In East and South-east Asia, one in five persons is an adolescent. They need reproductive health programmes that address their needs. At the end of May 2000, 24 young people from 12 countries in the region attended a workshop in Pattaya, Thailand, to share their views about what needs to be done. They came up with a programme of action to promote adolescent reproductive health that was adopted by senior policy makers, programme managers and representatives of UNFPA and other UN agencies and NGOs. The workshop was organized by the UNFPA technical support team in the region, with financial assistance from UNFPA, AusAID, UNESCO and UNAIDS. **FAMILY PLANNING** encourages better reproductive health and broader choices in life. But 20 to 25 per cent of couples in developing countries need better access to contraceptives. There are still 120 million couples who want to space the births of their children or stop having children but are not using contraception, and this number does not include unmarried individuals. In addition to efforts aimed at women, UNFPA undertakes many innovative projects with men to increase male responsibility for family planning and improve women's status and health.

- In Iran, 100 religious leaders, merchants and teachers received training in 2000 to remove cultural barriers to the use of reproductive health and family planning services.
- In Uganda, a mass media campaign was launched to improve male involvement in family planning and maternal health, which sparked public interest and debate.
- In Bangladesh, UNFPA cosponsored the first international seminar and training on non-scalpel vasectomy, which was attended by representatives from seven Asian countries.
- In Ecuador, UNFPA supported the drafting and introduction of new national reproductive health care norms and protocols in 2000.

We also work to improve the quality of care. In 2000, UNFPA collaborated on the publication of a new reference manual that contains medical eligibility criteria for different types of contraceptives to help determine which type is the safest and most appropriate for each person. The manual is based on the latest clinical and epidemiological data and is published by the World Health Organization.

Contraceptive use has increased dramatically in the past four decades, from around 10 per cent in 1960 to almost 60 per cent today. Demand is expected to increase by a further 40 per cent over the next 15 years. But donor support for contraceptives has been declining since 1996, resulting in contraceptive shortfalls in every region. The most severe shortages are in sub-Saharan Africa, where condoms are urgently needed to prevent the further spread of AIDS.



Improving the status of women and girls is a top priority for UNFPA. In 2000, we produced this advocacy booklet to raise awareness among policy makers and health care professionals of the crucial link between women's empowerment and reproductive health.



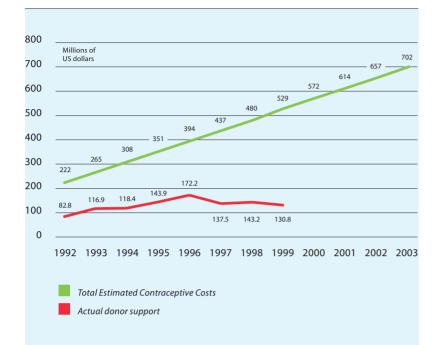
UNFPA is working in many countries to increase the number of births attended by skilled health care personnel. Here, a woman receives prenatal care from a midwife in Rajasthan, India. Photo: Viviane Moos

**COMMODITY SECURITY** is a top priority for UNFPA. Contraceptive and reproductive health supplies are crucial to enable people to avoid HIV infection and plan their families, and for countries to meet their population and development goals. UNFPA is the world's largest distributor of condoms. In September 2000, UNFPA launched a new global strategy for reproductive health commodity security, which quickly brought close to \$80 million in support from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The strategy is designed to build national capacity and sustainable approaches to contraceptive supply and delivery through public, private and non-governmental partnerships. A new unit at UNFPA Headquarters is guiding the effort in cooperation with the Procurement Section, and field offices are working to ensure strategic coordination at the national level.

**SAFE MOTHERHOOD** is high on UNFPA's agenda. Today some 514,000 women die each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and most of the deaths could be prevented through prompt treatment. The risk of dying in childbirth in developing countries is one in 48, compared to one in 1,800 in developed countries.

UNFPA supports a variety of measures in over 100 countries to reduce high rates of maternal mortality – from educating communities on safe motherhood to training health care providers in emergency obstetrics and equipping health facilities with proper supplies. We cooperate closely with WHO,

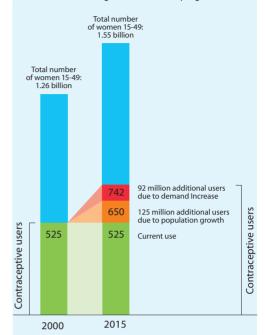
#### DONOR SUPPORT FOR CONTRACEPTIVES COMPARED WITH ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS (1992 - 2003)



Support from international donors for contraceptives and for condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS is far less than developing countries need. Every \$1 million shortfall in contraceptive commodities results in approximately 360,000 unwanted pregnancies, 150,000 abortions, more than 800 maternal deaths and 11,000 infant deaths.

#### FAMILY PLANNING NEEDS WILL GROW AS BOTH POPULATION AND DEMAND INCREASE

Projected Increase in Contraceptive Users, 2000-2015 (millions of women aged 15-49, developing countries)



Sources: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision; and UNFPA draft report.

#### THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE

For 13 years the Safe Motherhood Initiative has been working to improve the health of mothers in developing countries. It is an example of effective collaboration between UNFPA, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Population maternal care. In 2000, over 24,000 mothers were trained by volunteers in reproductive health. The mothers, in turn, spoke to other women in their communities and distributed family planning supplies and information. They also mobilized locally to create revolving funds for emergency obstetric care so women facing life-threatening complications during birth can get help

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