

ANNUAL REPORT 1997



UNFPA

United Nations
Population Fund

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The Programme of Action adopted at the historic International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September 1994, continued to resonate throughout all the activities of UNFPA during 1997. Notably, the year saw the beginning of a process designed to assess what has been achieved since Cairo and to reinforce its message throughout the world. This process, known as "ICPD+5", will involve the Fund and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system as well as Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other members of civil society. The ICPD+5 process was endorsed by ECOSOC in its resolution 1997/42 in July 1997 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/188 in December 1997. The initiative will include a series of round tables, technical meetings and regional consultations and will culminate in an international forum to be held in The Hague in February 1999 and a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly from 30 June to 2 July 1999.

One aspect of the ICPD+5 initiative will be to look at how well the countries of the world, both developing and developed, are doing in meeting the financial commitments they made at the ICPD to support population and reproductive health programmes. To that end, the Fund presented a preliminary report to the Executive Board in 1997 discussing some of the possible consequences up to the year 2000 if those financial goals are not met. This was then followed with a paper that focused on the Fund's own funding needs and the ways its work could be affected in the absence of such resources. A summary of that paper is included in this Annual Report in the section on "Mobilizing Resources" on pages 45-48.

The themes that animate UNFPA's Annual Report for 1997 are ones that have become familiar since the ICPD in 1994. Reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, remained the focus of the Fund's work during 1997, with programmes in the area of adolescent reproductive health playing an increasingly important role. The Fund's support for activities targeted at adolescents has expanded dramatically in the last decade. There is good evidence that information and service programmes for adolescents, both male and female, can make a difference, and this Annual Report highlights several notable examples.

A key objective of UNFPA assistance has been, and remains, the reduction of rates of maternal mortality. However, reducing those rates has proven to be more difficult than was envisioned when the Nairobi conference met 10 years ago to launch the Safe Motherhood Initiative. During 1997 the Fund participated, along with specialists from such organizations as WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank, in several regional and global technical conferences on this topic to see what successes had been achieved and how they could be replicated. A new UNFPA activity in this area is the "Save the Mothers" project, which is being implemented in seven countries with high maternal mortality rates.

The Fund continued its cooperation with other agencies and organizations in providing assistance in what is becoming an increasingly critical area – meeting reproductive

health needs in emergency and refugee situations. During 1997, the Fund worked closely with the main organizations providing humanitarian assistance, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as with other partner organizations, such as WHO and UNICEF. In another critical area, the Fund, as a member of the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), participated in UNAIDS theme groups in 119 countries and supported HIV/AIDS-prevention activities in 132 countries, up from 124 in 1996 and 114 in 1995.

The Fund also undertook noteworthy activities in its other core programme areas – population and development strategies, and advocacy – during the year. These included a first "Expert Consultation on Operationalizing Advocacy in Support of Population and Development Programmes at the Country Level". The Fund's Goodwill Ambassadors, Waris Dirie, Linda Gray, and Keiko Kishi, made several well-received visits to both programme and donor countries, where they focused public attention on important reproductive health issues. Ms. Dirie's courageous stand against female genital mutilation was widely reported.

Another focus of the Annual Report is on internal activities undertaken during the year to strengthen the Fund's own programme effectiveness. Chief among them was the development of a new Policies and Procedures Manual, which closely reflects the ICPD Programme of Action. The manual includes new Programme Guidelines and decentralizes programme authority to the Fund's country offices. The manual also incorporates new indicators designed to measure the effectiveness of UNFPA programmes, an area where the Fund is placing increasing emphasis.

Strengthening programme effectiveness also means helping to strengthen the Fund's partners. To help develop strategies for accomplishing this, the Fund carried out two related studies during 1997 – on ways of increasing the absorptive capacity of programme countries and of enhancing national execution of UNFPA-supported programmes. The results of the two studies will be reflected in the Fund's future work. The Fund has also continued to increase its work with NGOs. Taken together, these and other measures will help the Fund to carry out its role in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action more efficiently and effectively.

During the year, UNFPA continued to participate actively in implementing the system-wide United Nations reforms, especially through the newly-constituted United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and through such mechanisms as the Administrative Committee on Coordination. The Fund continued to expand collaborative efforts with all of its United Nations partner agencies and organizations, including with the Bretton Woods institutions.

Dr. Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund



UNFPA

INTRODUCTION





Viviane Moos

On the cover: Adolescent mother with child. The needs of such mothers present a growing challenge in many UNFPA programme countries.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the world's largest source of population assistance -- almost \$320 million in 1997. UNFPA works in more than 160 countries throughout the world. The Fund began operations in 1969, spurred by concerns about the "population explosion" and the attendant misery and hardship felt particularly keenly in poorer countries. To date, 171 nations have contributed more than \$4 billion to UNFPA.

Dr. Nafis Sadik was appointed Executive Director of the Fund by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1987; on her appointment, she became the first woman to head one of the major voluntarily-funded United Nations programmes. Dr. Sadik holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

UNFPA helps developing countries, at their request, to improve reproductive health care and to promote sustainable development. Reproductive health care includes family planning, sexual health, information and counselling, and medical services, all on the basis of individual choice. The Fund also provides data on population and its effects on human rights, quality of life, economic development, and the environment.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, marked a revolution in the way

population issues are regarded. Population and development are now acknowledged to be inextricably linked and both depend on the empowerment of women. The ICPD Programme of Action recognized this link. It also focused on meeting the needs of individual women and men rather than on simply trying to achieve demographic targets. Critical to this approach is providing women with more choices in life through expanded access to education, health services and employment opportunities.

UNFPA's income in 1997 (provisional) totalled \$319.9 million: \$290.1 million for general resources and \$29.8 million for multi-bilateral co-financing activities. This represented a 6 per cent decrease in general resources from the previous year and a 63 per cent increase in resources to multi-bilateral co-financing activities. Approximately 95 per cent of these resources were contributed by Japan, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Canada.

In 1997, a large number of major donors increased their contributions in terms of their national currencies, but unfavourable exchange rates resulted in a decrease in terms of the United States dollar. The resulting loss amounted to \$13 million, which in turn translated into an overall decrease in total income by \$7.1 million compared to the 1996 total income level of \$326.9 million.

However, it is important to note that UNFPA's income over the last five years has increased by 32 per cent for general resources and by 75 per cent for multi-bilateral co-financing arrangements. The overall positive trend has been in direct response to the ICPD Programme of Action.

The general outlook for UNFPA's income in 1998 is positive. Even though some major donors did not increase their financial support for population, the following factors are expected to give impetus to resource mobilization efforts: (a) the focus of the world community in meeting the challenges of the ICPD Programme of Action remains strong; and (b) the fact that the Fund is well positioned to execute an expanded programme of assistance in response to the increasing demands from developing countries for population assistance.

Moreover, the response of the private sector for supporting population activities is very encouraging. In particular, there are expectations of support from UNITRUST, a foundation established by Mr. Ted Turner for the benefit of United Nations development efforts, including population. The strong leadership of the Executive Board in the area of resource mobilization is also very promising. It is hoped that the Board will soon make recommendations on the ways and means for establishing a reliable funding mechanism for providing a predictable, adequate and secure resource base for UNFPA. This is absolutely necessary in achieving the far-reaching goals agreed to in the ICPD Programme of Action.



UNFPA IN 1997 - PROGRAMME AND FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Pledges and contributions

Regular income in 1997 (provisional) totalled \$290.1 million, a decrease of 6 per cent compared to the 1996 income of \$308.8 million.

Pledges to UNFPA's general resources in 1997 totalled \$285.5 million, \$17 million less than in 1996, a decrease of 6 per cent. At year's end, cumulative pledges through 1997 totalled about \$4 billion from a cumulative total of 171 donors. The number of donors in 1997 totalled 83.

An additional \$29.8 million was provided through multi-bilateral co-financing arrangements.

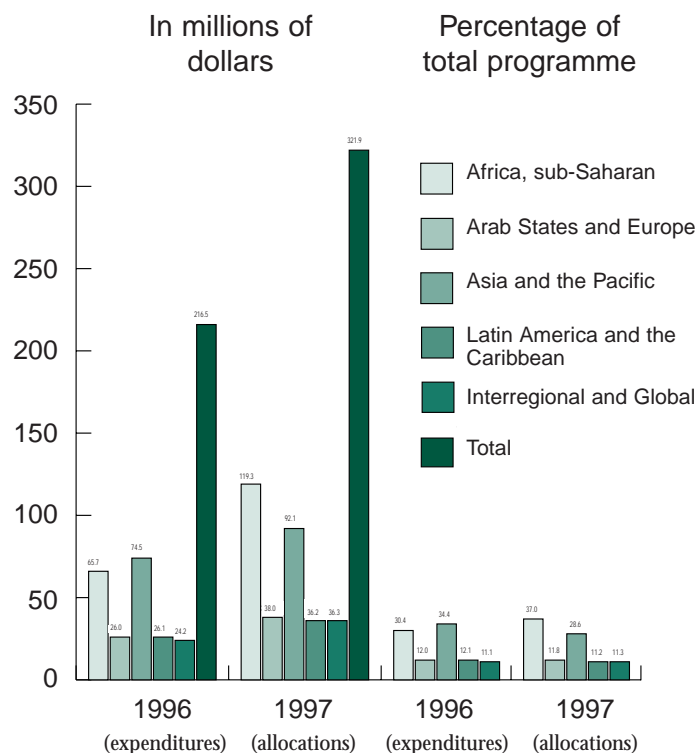
Total income in 1997 (provisional) was \$319.9 million.

Allocations and expenditures

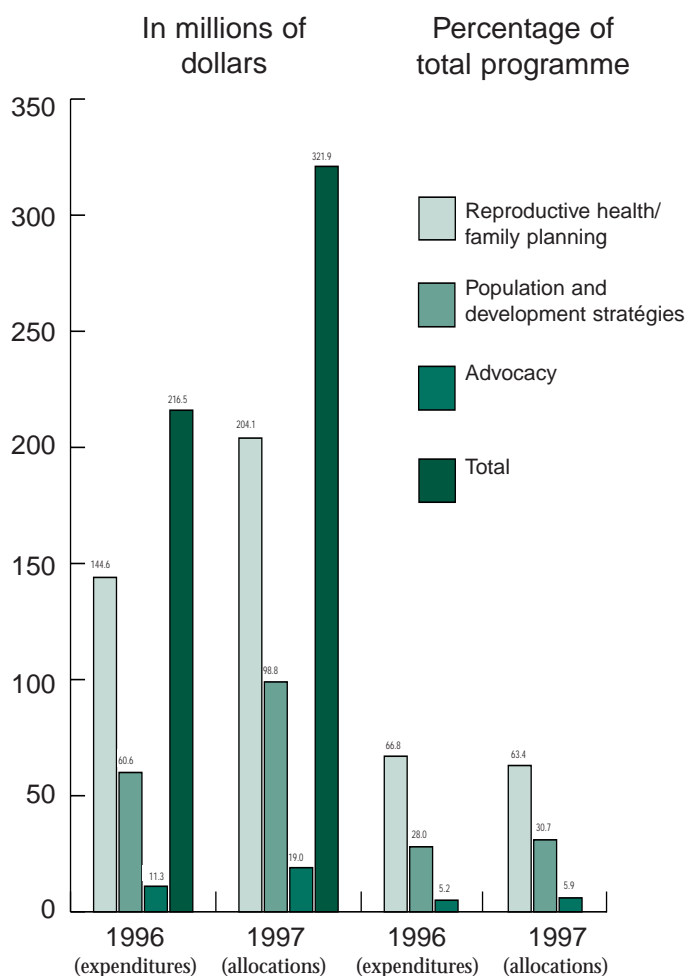
Total (provisional) programmable resources for 1997 were \$259.0 million, compared to \$274.7 million in 1996.

Project allocations in 1997 totalled \$321.9 million, including \$69.0 million of unspent allocations from 1996. Project allocations in 1996 totalled \$285.4 million, including \$109.5 million of

UNFPA ASSISTANCE BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION



UNFPA ASSISTANCE BY MAJOR FUNCTION



unspent allocations from 1995. Project expenditures (provisional) for 1997 totalled \$214.4 million compared to \$216.5 million in 1996.

Expenditures (provisional) in 1997 totalled \$303.6 million, compared to \$300.3 million in 1996. The 1997 figure includes \$175.0 million for country programmes, compared to \$178.6 million in 1996; \$39.4 million for intercountry (regional and interregional) programmes, compared to \$37.9 million for 1996.

Total biennial support budget expenditures for both headquarters and field offices were \$58.3 million in 1997 (net of \$5.5 million in credits and income), compared to \$52.8 million in 1996 (net of \$5.3 million in credits and income).

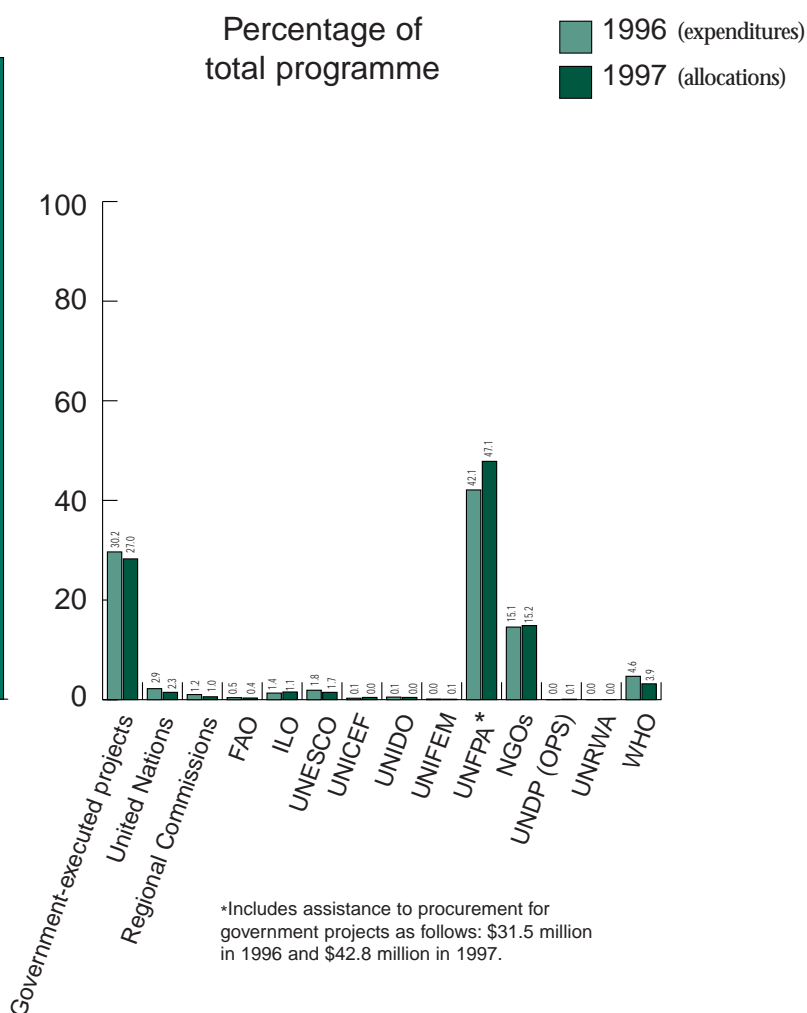
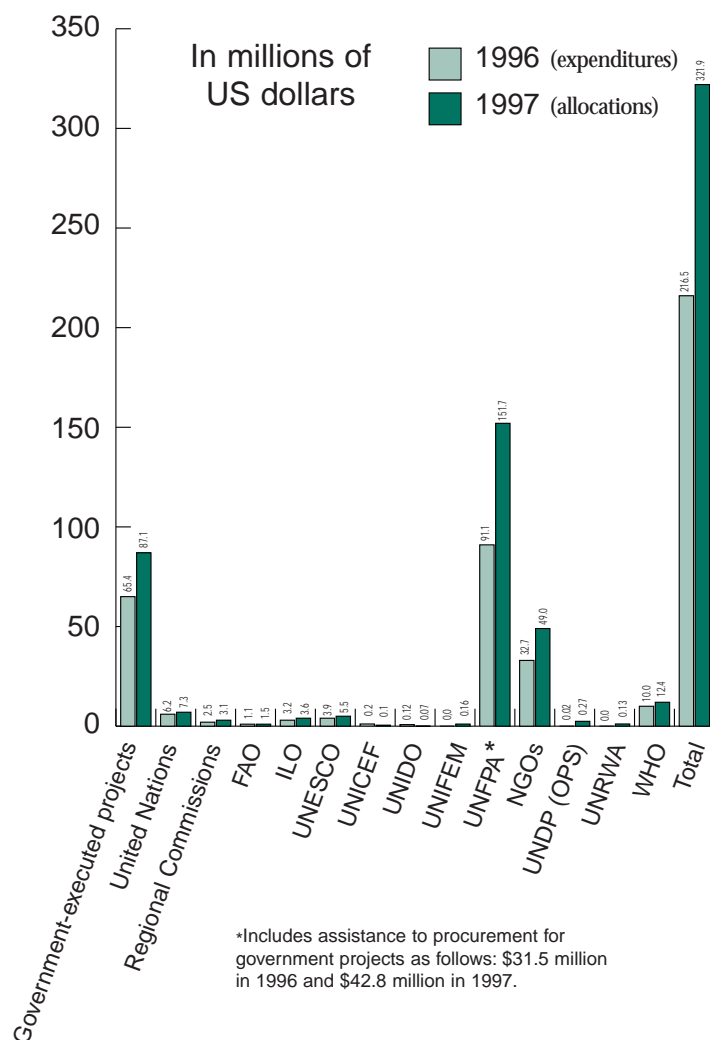
Field office costs were \$29.7 million in 1997 compared to \$27.6 million in 1996.

Technical support services under the successor support cost arrangements approved by the Governing Council in decision 91/37 were \$23.5 million. Administrative and operational services (AOS) costs, set by the Governing Council in the same decision at 7.5 per cent of expenditures of country activities, were \$7.3 million.

The project expenditure rate (expenditures divided by allocations) was provisionally 66.6 per cent, compared to 75.8 per cent (final) in 1996. The resource utilization rate (expenditures divided by programmable resources, as approved by the Governing Council in decision 89/46 B) was provisionally 95 per cent in 1997 compared to 90 per cent in 1996.

UNFPA IN 1997 - PROGRAMME AND FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

UNFPA ASSISTANCE BY EXECUTING AGENCY



For allocations in 1997 by major function and by geographical area, see graphs on page 6.

Country activities

Allocations to country projects in 1997 totalled \$264.2 million, compared to \$232.2 million in 1996. This included \$65.9 million for new country projects approved in 1997.

For allocations to country activities by category of country

with economies in transition, 4.3 per cent; and other countries and territories, 2.8 per cent.

Total allocations in 1997 to Group A countries amounted to \$164.4 million, compared to \$109.1 million in expenditures in 1996.

Intercountry activities

Allocations for intercountry activities (regional and interregional) totalled \$57.7 million in 1997, compared to \$27.9 million in

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