



“The Sustainable Development Goals echo and reinforce the ICPD agenda’s integrated approach to development, based on equality, dignity and rights for all. Focusing on the rights and empowerment of women, girls and young people, and ensuring, in particular, their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, are key to unlocking their potential to contribute to sustainable development.”

– Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin



Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled

United Nations Population Fund  
605 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10158  
+1 212 297 5000

www.unfpa.org  
@unfpa

Cover photo © UNFPA/Valeria Rivilla • Gatefold photo © UNFPA/Martin Beasdale

# Transforming Our World



## An unprecedented commitment

In 2015, the world made an unprecedented commitment to people, prosperity and the planet. The historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by over 150 world leaders, aims to end all forms of poverty and discrimination. It seeks to transform how we live, where all people enjoy rights and dignity.

The 2030 Agenda balances economic growth, social development and environmental protection. And it is universal. Both developed and developing countries must take action to meet its promises by 2030.

The Agenda stipulates 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets to translate its high ambitions into achievable actions. Reaching these Goals and the 2030 Agenda as a whole depends significantly on the work of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

## UNFPA's leadership role

Around the world, UNFPA programmes save the lives of women and young people, and empower them to take their rightful roles in development. As the global population fund, UNFPA is committed to delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.

The 2030 Agenda affirms the Programme of Action of the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which recognizes people at the core of development.

Mandated to implement the Programme of Action, UNFPA is already playing a leadership role on Goals related to poverty, health, education and gender equality. Attaining the Goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services will mean no woman dies of a preventable maternal death, and every woman can choose the number of her children. This in turn supports the freedom of every girl and woman to seek an education, find decent work and contribute even more to her family, community and nation.

UNFPA is joining governments, civil society groups and the private sector in this historic partnership to transform our world.



# 1 NO POVERTY



# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



The first Goal calls for eradicating extreme poverty, which forces one in five people in developing countries today to survive on less than \$1.25 a day. It commits to halving the share of people of all ages who suffer any of the major dimensions of poverty, which extend beyond income to factors such as poor health and inadequate education.

UNFPA supports sexual and reproductive health services that help women and girls expand their options. The inability to make choices in line with health and well-being otherwise keeps millions of women and girls out of school, and bars them from opportunities for decent work and a better life. This also translates into a profound loss for economies, which end up with fewer skilled workers and lower productivity.

UNFPA advocates strategies so countries can invest in their people to reap demographic dividends. These can considerably strengthen an economy, but they depend on family planning, education, empowerment and decent employment. Family planning, by empowering women to have fewer children, helps break the trap of poverty. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, which include family planning, can be one of the best investments: every \$1 invested can return \$120, by one estimate.

*Poor areas of Lao People's Democratic Republic still have no electricity or running water. But there are signs of progress. Access to contraceptives and UNFPA-supported counselling on reproductive health have encouraged people to fulfil their desire for fewer children. Maternal death rates have sharply declined. Mothers who can choose the timing of their pregnancies are healthier and better equipped to plan for their families and their future.*

Far too many women die or suffer debilitating illnesses due to the lack of reproductive health care. Giving life still ends in death and injuries for far too many women for preventable reasons, including unintended pregnancies and inadequate care before, during and after delivery.

The third Goal commits to reducing global maternal death to less than 70 per 100,000 births. It aims for universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

As the leading United Nations actor on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, UNFPA helps countries develop public policies and services that keep women and girls healthy and alive through childbearing and across their lives. Our programmes strengthen health systems by extending voluntary family planning, HIV prevention and treatment, and maternal health care. We provide vital assistance in training midwives to international standards to significantly cut maternal death and in ensuring access to emergency obstetric and neonatal care. Life-saving services are particularly critical in humanitarian and fragile settings, where 60 per cent of preventable maternal deaths occur.

*For women and girls caught in crises, the risk of dying in childbirth is greater than anywhere else. In Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp, a UNFPA-supported clinic offers sexual and reproductive health services to more than 100 women and helps 8 to 10 women safely deliver every day. As of August 2016, there have been no maternal deaths among its patients since the clinic opened in 2013.*

While many countries are today on the cusp of sending every girl and boy to primary school, many children will fail to finish, much less move to the secondary level. The quality of education varies widely, setting some students up for a bright future, while trapping others in a lifetime of lost opportunities. The latter will mostly be unable to transition into the skilled jobs that can power a more productive economy and yield a demographic dividend. For far too many girls, education is still derailed early by child marriage, pregnancy or gender discriminatory norms that treat schooling for girls as less important than for boys.

The fourth Goal calls for ensuring, by 2030, that all girls and boys complete both primary and secondary education that is free, equitable and of high quality.

UNFPA encourages countries to invest in their future through education that allows all young people, especially girls, to learn and thrive. We stand behind programmes teaching literacy and numeracy, as well as human rights and life skills that young people need to negotiate a safe and rewarding life. Comprehensive sexuality education teaches young people about their bodies, health and disease prevention, to help them avoid early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

*In Liberia, still reeling from the Ebola crisis, nearly a third of women and girls cannot obtain family planning. The birth rate among adolescents is among the highest in the world. UNFPA has mobilized young people to help their peers avoid unintended pregnancies. They have fanned out across the country, counselling 300,000 women and girls on their reproductive health and rights, and providing access to contraceptives.*

To be a woman or girl in the world today is still to bear a much higher risk of poverty, violence, disenfranchisement and shortfalls in human rights. The consequences are profound for women and their societies, which will never benefit from the full potential of healthy, educated, empowered women and girls.

The fifth Goal seeks to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls. Violence against them must stop, as must all harmful practices, such as child and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. The Goal reiterates universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as fundamental to women realizing many other rights and choices about their lives.

UNFPA works to eliminate child marriage and female genital mutilation and their consequences. These include the loss of education and opportunity, and maternal deaths and injuries.

UNFPA empowers women to be greater forces behind demographic dividends through the full realization of their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and equal opportunities to learn as well as to enter and progress in the workforce.

*Teenage girls across Moldova dream of a future career and family, but many will see these aspirations cut short by risky behaviours stemming from limited knowledge on sexual and reproductive health. To empower all youth, UNFPA is helping to integrate comprehensive sexuality education in schools. Hundreds of Y-Peer youth trainers hold sessions so young people learn about their bodies and how to protect themselves.*