



THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a critical partner in the effort to expand and improve family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services around the world. More than 180 countries contribute to UNFPA to help it work in some 150 low-income nations—three times as many to which the United States provides family planning aid directly. UNFPA is a global leader in programs to:

MAKE CONTRACEPTIVES AVAILABLE

UNFPA is the largest multilateral provider of contraceptive supplies. Access to safe, effective birth control helps individuals and couples avoid unwanted pregnancies, bring about wanted births, and determine the timing of pregnancies and the number of children in their families. It also slows the rapid population growth that contributes to poverty and environmental degradation. Today, there 214 million women in the developing world who would like to either prevent or delay pregnancy but have an unmet need for modern contraception. These women experience 74 million unplanned pregnancies each year.

ENSURE SAFE CHILDBIRTH

In much of the developing world, childbirth brings serious risks to both the mother and the infant. Every year, more than 300,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes. UNFPA supports safe motherhood interventions as part of its commitment to reproductive health. Between 2009 and 2018, UNFPA helped train more than 100,000 midwives in over 120 countries. Additionally, UNFPA is leading the effort to ensure that hospitals and health clinics have proper supplies to provide life-saving care to women facing difficult pregnancies and deliveries.

PREVENT AND TREAT OBSTETRIC FISTULA

UNFPA is helping to lead the Campaign to End Fistula in more than 50 countries. Obstetric fistula is a debilitating condition that can leave women incontinent and shunned by their communities. Fistula is both preventable and treatable, but continues to plague more than 2 million women throughout the developing world.

Over the last 15 years, nearly 95,000 women with the devastating birth injury have received surgical repair with assistance from UNFPA.

ELIMINATE THE PRACTICE OF FGM/C

Every year, millions of women and girls face the prospect of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), while 200 million worldwide have already undergone the practice. Since 2008, UNFPA has worked in partnership with UNICEF on a Joint Program on Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting. The program combats FGM/C by educating citizens about its harmful consequences, engaging government leaders and local officials, motivating religious leaders to protect women's health, and educating and encouraging journalists to report on the issue. The program currently focuses on 17 African countries and also supports regional and global initiatives. As a result of this international campaign, thousands of communities across 15 countries have publicly declared their abandonment of FGM/C. With the support of UNFPA and other UN agencies, 13 countries have passed legislation banning FGM. In 2015, Nigeria and The Gambia developed national policies against the practice.

OFFER CRITICAL SERVICES IN CRISES

UNFPA is the global leader in responding to the unique needs of women following natural disasters and other humanitarian crises. It is currently on the ground in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen offering safe delivery kits, emergency delivery services, and access to contraception to the millions of people affected by the refugee crisis. UNFPA is on the ground after nearly all major natural disasters, such as the devastating 2006 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and the 2012 floods in the Philippines. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved by UNFPA's quick response to disaster situations.

PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

UNFPA insists on voluntary family planning programs and fights against policies that limit the number of children a woman



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can have and when she can have them. The agency condemns practices such as coercive abortion or sterilization. It was a leading voice against the one-child policy in China and was the first international organization to speak out against the coercive practices in the country. In addition, UNFPA developed pilot programs in China that were contingent on the government eliminating coercive tactics and allowing for outside, independent monitoring of the human rights conditions in the country. The programs expanded choice and voluntarism and within a few years rapidly spread from the pilot program areas to much of the nation. It is inarguable that UNFPA's efforts were one of the primary reasons for China's abandonment of the policy.

RAISE THE STATUS OF GIRLS

Prenatal sex selection occurs because of gender inequality, sex discrimination, and a cultural preference for sons. UNFPA is working with other agencies, like UNICEF, to address the harmful attitudes that lead to sex-selective abortions. They are doing what works: broad and integrated county-level public education campaigns to promote gender equality that involve

opinion leaders and those shaping cultural norms. The project also addresses structural issues underlying gender discrimination, in particular a widespread preference for sons. This approach has been shown to bring more positive results than simply passing laws banning sex-selection.

THE UNITED STATES AND UNFPA

The United States was integral to the beginning of UNFPA operations in 1969 and a leading supporter during the agency's first 15 years. The United States has since remained on UNFPA's Executive Board and has historically helped shape UNFPA programs and priorities. U.S. financial support to UNFPA is in keeping with the United States' historic leadership role in promoting the rights of women and our commitment to help countries develop to their fullest potential. No economically developed country in the world excludes women from public participation, making UNFPA's work an important partner in achieving our common goals of ending poverty and promoting development.

UNITED STATES CORE SUPPORT FOR UNFPA

\$60 USD, IN MILLIONS

