

UNFPA Input to the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

UNFPA is pleased to submit its contribution to the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. In line with its mandate and in support of the inter-agency system-wide plan of action, UNFPA's input outlines key contributions to poverty eradication. This submission, limited to 800 words, is structured around three core elements:

(1) Progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, focusing on key activities; assessment of results; gaps and challenges as well as proposed solutions (please refer to the thematic focus areas that UNFPA contributes to in the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action); (2) Efforts made to foster greater interagency convergence and collaboration in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds and providing technical assistance in the key areas of policy focus contained in the system-wide plan of action in terms of joint programmes, partnerships etc.; (3) Key messages, policies and best practices to eradicate poverty in accordance with UNFPA's mandate.

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Investing in SRHR has multiplier effects on poverty reduction. UNFPA estimates a US \$8.40 return for every dollar invested in family planning and maternal health in developing countries.

1. Progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication

UNFPA's 2024 contributions to the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication focused on the following SWAP policy areas:

- **Expanding Social Protection for Inclusive Development:** Accurate, disaggregated data (including gender/age) is critical for targeted poverty reduction. In 2024, UNFPA supported censuses in 14 countries (including Iraq's first in decades) and promoted gender analysis in fiscal policy to address inequalities. UNFPA is also testing a methodology in parts of Africa to measure public investment in preventing GBV and harmful practices to improve funding and inform benchmarks for protective services.
- **Human Capacity Development: Addressing the Non-Income Forms of Poverty** UNFPA integrated comprehensive SRHR into national health systems for universal health coverage and strengthened healthcare in 44 high-burden countries via the Maternal and Newborn Health Fund. Through its global adolescent and youth strategy, UNFPA invested in education, health, and skills for young people, particularly

disadvantaged youth. In 2024, UNFPA launched a Global Programme to improve access to comprehensive sexuality education for an estimated 7.5 million adolescents and youth in 10 countries.

- **Reducing Inequalities and leaving no one behind:** UNFPA's programmes aim to address intersectional inequalities to ensure that no one is left behind. In 2024, UNFPA addressed Gender Based Violence (GBV) in over 150 countries and territories, spanning response, prevention, data/research, and enabling environments. Response efforts included supporting 200 safe spaces in conflict-affected areas. Prevention work led to a 10% reduction in reported cases of intimate partner violence in pilot communities. Data and research initiatives supported national surveys, collecting data from over 100,000 households. UNFPA also provided technical assistance to 15 countries in developing or revising national action plans on GBV. In 2024, UNFPA Brazil supported the enumeration of the 1.3 million-strong quilombola population, identified as an ethnic group in the 2022 census for the first time since slavery's abolition. Through the *kNOwVAW data initiative*, UNFPA helped 27 countries improve the availability and quality of data on GBV. In 2024, UNFPA reached over 3.6 million people with protection from gender-based violence in 59 crisis-affected countries.

Beyond integrating disability inclusion in its country programmes, UNFPA launched the "We Decide" Programme which specifically prioritized the human rights and social inclusion of women and young persons with disabilities, ensuring their access to SRH and protection from GBV. Additionally, UNFPA played a leading global role in advancing healthcare, justice, and development for people of African descent, particularly women and girls.

- **Fighting Poverty in Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts:** In 2024, UNFPA's humanitarian responses covered 59 crisis-affected countries. UNFPA established 50 new women-friendly spaces in humanitarian settings, prioritizing the poorest and most marginalized, including refugees and internally displaced persons. UNFPA also champions the critical role of young people as agents of peace and resilience, including in marginalized, conflict-affected communities and humanitarian settings.

2. Efforts made to foster greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration

UNFPA collaborated with UN partners, embedding SRHR, GBV, gender equality, and youth empowerment in UNSDCFs and actively participating in Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). Key joint initiatives in which UNFPA took a leading role include the Spotlight Initiative 2.0, supporting 6 countries to address GBV, regional GBV prevention joint programmes with UN Women in Asia Pacific and ESCWA/UNDP/UN Women across 16 Arab States, and country-level joint programming on social protection, adolescent development, and gender equality. The UNFPA-UNICEF partnerships led the largest global programme to accelerate the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in 17 countries leading to legal/policy change in 14 and protecting over 162,000 girls from FGM, and the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, preventing over 7.2 million girls from child, early, and forced marriage. Efforts to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation have also been

strengthened. Committed to Youth Peace and Security agenda, UNFPA co-led the 2024 SG report on YPS and led interagency country and global-level action to address exclusion and empower youth in peacebuilding, humanitarian response, and climate action.

3. Key messages, policies and best practices to eradicate poverty under UNFPA's mandate.

To effectively eradicate poverty, UNFPA's key messages are the following:

- **Empowering women and girls with access to quality sexual and reproductive health services** is fundamental to poverty eradication, enabling informed choices and full participation in education and economic life, breaking poverty cycles.
- **Addressing structural inequalities and discrimination, including gender-based violence, through multi-sectoral efforts** is critical to poverty eradication.
- **Investing in adolescents and youth** through education, health, and livelihood opportunities promotes social inclusion and builds human capital, which is essential for peaceful, sustainable and prosperous societies.
- **Promoting inclusive data-driven and collaborative approaches**, including South-South cooperation, reinforces the accountability and effectiveness of poverty eradication strategies by integrating demographic dynamics, gender equality, and human rights.