



Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

Report of the Secretary-General

UNFPA contribution to UN system activities to accelerate the implementation of the system-wide plan of action for Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)

UNFPA contributes to the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but directly contributes to: (a) Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); (b) Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); (c) Goal 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries); (d) Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts); (e) Goal 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); and (f) Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development). UNFPA ultimately contributes to the achievement of Goal 1 (end poverty in all its forms everywhere).¹

Data

UNFPA's strategic plan for 2022-2025 emphasizes the centrality of data in ensuring evidence-based programming to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the SDGs.

Population and housing censuses form the backbone of national data systems and, because they collect data on every person in the country, they allow for high levels of data disaggregation which enables identification of population groups that are left behind or are at risk of being left behind. Also, 107 of the 232 SDG indicators require population data to be calculated and the census is a major source of the relevant population data. UNFPA supports the implementation of population and housing censuses across all programme countries to ensure that the censuses meet international quality standards. UNFPA support covers all the phases of censuses from planning, data collection, analysis, dissemination, and the use of census data for development purposes. Despite many COVID-19 related postponements, in 2021 and 2022 alone, at least 50 countries completed census enumeration with UNFPA support, whilst many more were supported to prepare for upcoming enumerations and others to process, analyse, disseminate, and use census data for planning and decision-making.

Through the UNFPA-hosted Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, UNFPA is supporting member states to strengthen their population data systems by improving the inclusiveness of their civil registration and vital statistics systems, as well as supporting the strategic use of civil registration data for monitoring of population dynamics and SDG progress. UNFPA supported CRVS System

¹ United Nations Population Fund Strategic Plan, 2022-2025



strengthening in 26 countries in 2021-2022. In Nepal and Malawi UNFPA coordinated joint technical support missions in partnership with UNICEF and WHO via the SDG3 Global Action Plan to strengthen alignment of CRVS and national health data systems. Inclusion in civil registration systems is the legal basis for individuals to be recognized as equal before the law, and in many countries mediate an individual's access to the education, health, and social protection systems. So, ensuring that CRVS systems are more inclusive, particularly of vulnerable subpopulations, is an important tool for poverty eradication.

Programming for demographic dividend(s)

Following the adoption of the demographic dividend programming agenda by the African Union (AU) member states in 2013, during their regional review conference on ICPD+20, and subsequent adoption of the African Union Roadmap on Harnessing the demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth in 2017, UNFPA has provided technical support to AU member states in **conducting demographic dividend studies** (using either the DemDiv model or National Transfer Accounts (NTA) analysis); **development of demographic dividend roadmaps**; **integration of demographic dividend concept into development plans**; as well as establishing **demographic dividend observatories**. Thus far, 22 countries in the Western and Central Africa Region (WCAR) and 17 in Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESAR) have conducted demographic dividend studies, 9 and 22 countries have developed demographic dividend roadmaps in ESAR and WCAR, respectively.² Altogether, 25 countries (12 in ESAR and 13 in WCAR) have integrated demographic dividend programming into their development plans and seven (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, and Senegal) have established demographic dividend observatories.³

In partnerships with World Bank, the West African Health Organization, the AU and the Agence Française de Développement, UNFPA is also implementing the **Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) project**, to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls and ensure their empowerment in 9 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger). The project targets adolescent girls to (i) improve life skills and sexual and reproductive health knowledge; (ii) keep girls in school, and (iii) increase economic opportunities; (iv) and fight against gender-based violence (GBV). In 2021, after six years of implementation, the SWEDD project had successfully empowered girls and women through integrated packages of interventions, including safe spaces and clubs for husbands and future husbands, school supports (remedial classes, financial assistance, transportation, canteens, gender responsive pedagogy training). Evaluative results show that 90% of adolescent girls who benefit from safe spaces have a better knowledge of the harms of early pregnancy, child marriage, GBV and school dropout.⁴ The retention rate of adolescent girls enrolled in secondary schools reached 92%. The rate of first prenatal consultation in the project's intervention zones has increased by 13.4% thanks to the establishment of clubs for husbands and future husbands. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 15.6% (2016) to 27.5% (2020) in Mali and the modern contraceptive prevalence in Chad has increased to 6.0% (2021) from 2.7% (2012). In Benin, over 5,400 girls received training to sustain their livelihoods.

² UNFPA, DPRU and AFIDEP. 2021. *Best Practices in Operationalising the Demographic Dividend in Eastern and Southern Africa*

³ Ibid

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Additionally, since November 2020, UNFPA in partnership with the AUC and the Government of Germany has convened 6 **policy dialogues on demographic diversity and dividend(s)**, creating a platform for civil society, governments, academia, women, and youth organizations to exchange on policy successes and challenges they encounter when planning for anticipated demographic change and its implications for sustainable development and demographic dividends. The themes covered in the dialogues include data, food security and nutrition, education, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, urbanization, and climate resilience. Over 600 participants, comprising technical and policy experts and decision makers from governments of countries in all regions of the world, academia and relevant stakeholders from civil society and youth representatives, contributed to the dialogues.

Joint programme to end child marriage

UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF, implements a joint Global Programme to End Child Marriage by promoting the rights of adolescent girls to avert marriage and pregnancy and enable them to achieve their aspirations through education and alternative pathways. The programme achieves results by integrating actions to empower girls with knowledge, skills and resources needed. The programme strengthens services across education, health, child protection, social protection to address negative social and gender norms, and build the capacities of Governments and non-government organizations across relevant sectors, while engaging with communities and partners for more harmonized action and accountability. Some of the results that were recorded by the programme in 2021 include: (i) training of 480 child journalists (half of them girls) with the skills to generate video content to report on child marriage, gender equality and girls' empowerment in Bangladesh. This content was disseminated on the first-ever children's online news platform.; (ii) supporting over 14,000 adolescent girls in Burkina Faso with school materials, payment of school fees and case management to ensure they continue their education; and (iii) supporting 66 municipalities in Nepal to develop action plans addressing child marriage.⁵

⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-global-programme-end-child-marriage#>