

# PARTNERSHIPS AND FUND-RAISING

Strengthening key alliances to enhance effectiveness. Strategic partnerships and steady support enhance UNFPA leadership.

Stronger partnerships promise greater effectiveness in all areas of concern to UNFPA. In 2002, our circle of partnerships expanded steadily. Key alliances were pursued with those who share common goals and recognize the central role of reproductive health in poverty reduction, human rights and many other aspects of development.

Alliances and networks were strengthened across and within countries through strategic partnering with governments, NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector and individuals. Partners also included parliamentarians, foundations, universities, media organizations, international financial institutions, donors and multilateral and bilateral organizations.

Strong partnerships make it possible for UNFPA to leverage limited resources and share our unique expertise. With our partners, we gain the strength in numbers needed to make good on promises made at the International Conference on Population and Development and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

## GOVERNMENTS

The Government of the Netherlands was the number one donor to UNFPA in 2002, contributing \$55.8 million. Contributions were pledged by 135 countries—a record number.

Not only did programme countries show support by their pledges, but several major donors increased their contributions to help UNFPA overcome a significant shortfall in regular resources. Also of note in 2002, the European Union signed an agreement with UNFPA for 20 million euros to help improve reproductive health care services in eight African and two Caribbean countries affected by high rates of HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality.

In December, ministers and senior officials from 35 countries pledged to give priority to population and reproductive health concerns in their work to reduce poverty. At the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok, they called for stepped-up efforts and increased resources to provide reproductive health care, combat AIDS and protect adolescents against unwanted or too-early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. They also agreed that progress on such issues as gender inequality, migration, urbanization and ageing are closely linked to prospects for eradicating poverty.

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

NGOs are important partners at the global, regional and local levels, implementing projects with UNFPA support, and raising funds and awareness. Groundwork was laid in 2002 for electronic knowledge-sharing with NGOs, parliamentarians and other partners.

Rotary International renewed a commitment to work with UNFPA on population and development issues. Joint efforts included the 2002 launch of an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in India and reproductive health research in Mexico. Cooperation continued this year with the European Commission/UNFPA Initiative for Reproductive Health in Asia, which has worked with 19 European NGOs and more than 60 local partners to improve reproductive and sexual health in seven South and South East Asian countries. UNFPA also signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to boost cooperation in providing reproductive health services, particularly to refugee women.

Programmes that advance South-South cooperation are important to development. In 2002, the Colombian NGO, PROFAMILIA, trained 149 professionals from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries, and provided technical assistance to nine institutions in six countries. With support from UNFPA, 853 professionals from 20 countries have been trained since 1999.

Adolescent reproductive health was the focus of a variety of NGO actions. Through the African Youth Alliance, a forum of 20 religious leaders was formed under the auspices of the Botswana Christian Council to advance adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Save the Children (UK)



### 2002 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

More than 100 parliamentarians from 70 countries convened at the Canadian Parliament in November to identify actions to promote women's reproductive rights, improve access to reproductive health services, reduce maternal mortality and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. That includes ways to secure funding and strengthen laws, policies and services so that all women and men can enjoy the right to reproductive health.

The conference produced the Ottawa Commitment outlining specific actions to be taken by lawmakers in their countries to implement the Cairo ICPD Programme of Action, including striving to attain 5 to 10 per cent of national development budgets for population and reproductive health programmes.



Jane Roberts (right) of California and Lois Abraham of New Mexico initiated the 34 Million Friends campaign to raise funds and show support when the United States administration cut \$34 million in funding to UNFPA in July 2002. Working from their homes, the two American women, who had not met each other before, started an unprecedented grass-roots movement. Hundreds of letters filled with dollar bills, generous checks and heartfelt messages have arrived at the UNFPA offices day after day. The U.S. Committee for UNFPA, which supports the work of the Fund through advocacy, education and fund-raising, has been an active participant in the campaign.

*Photo: William A. Ryan/UNFPA*

and Pharmaciens Sans Frontières Comité International joined UNFPA in Cambodia to support a training project involving Buddhist monks and NGOs including the Women's Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing, Local Youth and Children Support Organization, and Operation Enfants de Battambang.

In May, UNFPA and the Population Council organized a workshop to review experience in adolescent reproductive health and social development, and to consider new directions in programming.

Youth advocates toured 20 districts in Kenya in a project of the Family Planning Association of Kenya and UNFPA. The young people spoke to community groups about education for girls and the importance of ending early and forced marriage and female genital cutting.

## UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

UNFPA was designated by UNAIDS as the UN system's HIV/AIDS resource on young people and on condom programming, and we continued to co-chair, with UNIFEM, the inter-agency task team on gender and HIV/AIDS. Funds from UNAIDS supported a project to integrate reproductive health into the programmes of youth organizations in the Arab States.

With WHO, simplified health care guidelines were developed and widely disseminated, and with UNICEF, a basic emergency obstetric care training module was developed. Both WHO and UNICEF joined UNFPA in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to advance peer education, life skills education and youth-friendly services.

With the World Bank, a training course was held to enhance the skills of UNFPA staff in managing policy processes related to population issues, reproductive health and health sector reform. UNFPA also participated in a high-level workshop to bring partners together in support of the World Bank's initiative on low-income countries under stress. UNFPA and the World Bank also expanded collaboration in reproductive health, gender and culture. Joint activities include sharing experiences and publications, monitoring indicators and developing training modules for gender mainstreaming.

## FOUNDATIONS

Financial support from foundations enables UNFPA to select specific activities in need of support. Since its establishment by U.S. business leader Ted Turner in 1998, the United Nations Foundation (UNF) has contributed more than \$44 million to UNFPA. In 2002, UNF funds supported a global project to improve quality of health care in six countries: India, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Nepal, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania. UNF funds also continued to support our humanitarian response in crisis situations.

The Hewlett Foundation awarded UNFPA a grant of \$1 million to strengthen advocacy activities. This enabled the Fund to establish an office in Tokyo, organize a major conference for parliamentarians, and create a new post for a parliamentary and NGO public affairs specialists.



Dr. Kwasi Odoi-Agyarko (left), Executive Director of Rural Help Integrated in Ghana, receiving the 2002 United Nations Population Award from Gillian Sorensen, UN Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations. The award is in recognition of his individual contribution to population issues. His UNFPA-supported project serves the rural poor in hard-to-reach communities where female genital cutting is one of many challenges. The institutional award went to EngenderHealth of the United States.

*Photo: Eskinder Debebe/UN*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supported UNFPA partnerships including the African Youth Alliance, giving \$56.7 million over several years.

### ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

Universities throughout the world collaborate with UNFPA, carrying out research, analysing data, participating in training, and developing academic programmes that help build national capacities in the areas of population and development.

In 2002, UNFPA continued to combat obstetric fistula and to enhance emergency obstetric services through its collaboration with Columbia University's Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program and the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This collaboration also led to the implementation of projects that provide emergency obstetric care and improve data collection in India, Morocco, Mozambique and Nicaragua. The University of Zambia is carrying out gender research, with UNFPA support, that will enhance the effectiveness of education and advocacy.

### UNFPA GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

UNFPA Goodwill Ambassadors use their celebrity status to draw attention to reproductive health and rights. Many also raise awareness through the Face to Face Campaign for women's rights, serving as spokespersons.

- UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Goedele Liekens produced a documentary about obstetric fistula during a visit to Ethiopia in October 2002. The 45-minute programme, "The Pain of Labour that Never Ends", was viewed by a million people in Belgium and the Netherlands.

- Extensive media coverage on adolescent health resulted from a visit to Nicaragua by Kattis Ahlstrom, a television presenter and reporter from Sweden; Hanne-Vibeke Holst, an author from Denmark; Kari Jaquesson, a television presenter from Norway; and Mikko Kuustonen, a recording artist from Finland.

- 19 UNFPA Goodwill Ambassadors attended a June meeting of celebrity advocates of UN causes. Discussions on advocacy and on forgotten emergencies were facilitated by former Miss Universe Wendy Fitzwilliam of Trinidad and Tobago, and by Goedele Liekens, a Belgian television personality.