

# Foreword

At the 2005 World Summit, heads of state and government reaffirmed the principle that equality and women’s empowerment are both ends in themselves and cornerstones of development. And they declared that “progress for women is progress for all.”

Progress for women and their families has been the primary focus of the United Nations Population Fund since its inception. The Fund works to save women’s lives and protect their health. It strives to ensure that every child is a wanted child, whether a boy or a girl; that every pregnancy and birth is healthy; that every woman and young person remains HIV-free; that the rights of every girl and woman are respected; and that every family has the hope of a strong and stable future—with real choices and opportunities.

UNFPA’s work is crucial for the advancement of women, but it also contributes powerfully to our broader quest for sustainable human development. That is why the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document highlighted the role of reproductive health in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, the Summit emphasized universal reproductive health as a means to reduce maternal and child mortality, improve maternal health, promote gender equality, combat HIV/AIDS and eradicate poverty.

This report documents UNFPA’s work in these important areas over the past year. It serves not only as a valuable reference, but as a call to action. I encourage Member States and individuals alike to strengthen support for the organization’s vital efforts.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a horizontal line through the middle.

Kofi A. Annan  
*Secretary-General of the United Nations*