



UNFPA & NEPAD

aligning for africa's future

The New Partnership for Africa's Development, or NEPAD, is a pledge by African leaders to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called upon the UN system to support the African initiative. This brochure outlines the potential synergies between UNFPA's work and NEPAD's goals, and the areas in which the Fund is uniquely positioned to advance the Partnership's objectives.

The priorities outlined in NEPAD coincide with the thrust of other international initiatives—including the Millennium Development Goals and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Major themes include good governance, economic growth, mobilization of resources, global partnerships, environmental protection, poverty reduction and investment in human resources.

UNFPA's mandate—addressing population concerns, including the reproductive well-being of individual men and women—is linked to all of these issues. The connection is most direct in the areas of poverty reduction, economic growth, environmental protection and investment in human resources.

Indeed, UNFPA is working actively on several fronts to achieve many of the Partnership's goals, which include:

- ☀ An average gross domestic product growth rate of more than seven per cent per year for the next 15 years;
- ☀ Reduction of extreme poverty by one half between 1990 and 2015;
- ☀ Enrolment of all children of school age in primary schools by 2015, with special attention to eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005;

- ☀ Reduction of infant and child mortality ratios by two thirds between 1990 and 2015;
- ☀ Reduction in maternal mortality ratios by three quarters between 1990 and 2015;
- ☀ Access for all to reproductive health by 2015;
- ☀ Adoption of national strategies for sustainable development by 2005, to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015.

The men and women in the villages and cities throughout Africa constitute the greatest resource and the greatest hope for positive change.

THORAYA A. OBAID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNFPA



United Nations Population Fund

Efforts to slow down population growth, to reduce poverty, to achieve economic progress, to improve environmental protection, and to reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns are mutually reinforcing.

ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION, PARA 3.14.

UNFPA: A Willing, Able and Experienced Development Partner

As a partner in Africa's development, UNFPA offers a number of comparative advantages. UNFPA calls attention to critical population concerns through advocacy and capacity building in data collection and analysis. It also supports a wide range of programmes to improve the reproductive health of African women and men. In recognition of the severe challenges Africa faces in meeting ICPD goals, UNFPA devotes the largest share (57 per cent in 2001) of its funds to that region.

NEPAD builds on and attempts to overcome the failings of several earlier initiatives for the continent. An independent evaluation of one such initiative, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, singled out UNFPA's achievements and "proactive role" in integrating population issues into the development agenda and building capacity. The evaluation report* noted:

UNFPA [in collaboration with other international agencies] provided technical and financial assistance for the knowledge of demography in Africa, research, training, and population policies. It raised awareness of population issues among the leadership of society, involving Governments and community in the design and implementation of programmes. In the process, it enhanced ownership and increased expertise at the country level.

Several of UNFPA's strengths make it a powerful partner for NEPAD:

- ☀ Institution-wide expertise in dealing with sensitive issues including sexuality, reproductive health, gender and human rights, even in difficult contexts such as natural emergencies and social upheavals, while respecting national priorities and local values;

- ☀ An Africa-based network of technical experts to assist with needs assessments, project implementation and evaluation;
- ☀ Collaborative arrangements with many Africa-based training institutions and technical organizations within and outside the UN system;
- ☀ Extensive background in working and partnering with national and international NGOs and other development groups.

In support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, UNFPA will continue to emphasize three critical areas as part of its regular country assistance or within a consortium of partners:

- ☀ Reproductive health and rights, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention and care;
- ☀ Gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women;
- ☀ Population and development strategies.

* [A/AC.251/9] Independent evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, 14 June 2002, para. 108.

*We all know that, of all partners,
the most critical are the
African citizens themselves.*

THORAYA A. OBAID



Cooperative Action on Critical Themes

The United Nations agencies working in Africa have identified a number of thematic “clusters” that are relevant to NEPAD’s goals. UNFPA participated in the Annual Regional Consultation of these agencies in Addis Ababa in October 2002 as a member of the cluster on human resource development, HIV-AIDS and employment, and the one on environment, population and urbanization. At the meeting, consensus for action was reached, much of it coinciding with major areas of ongoing UNFPA programme assistance to African countries, including:

- ☀ Support for data collection and analysis for monitoring of progress on Millennium Development Goals and the NEPAD initiatives;
- ☀ Technical assistance in evaluating population impacts;
- ☀ Delivery of reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention services and supplies, including in emergency situations and other social crises;
- ☀ Capacity building in population and development, and gender equality and equity as well as in project management skills;
- ☀ Strengthening gender mechanisms of regional institutions;
- ☀ Programme support in adolescent reproductive health and education with advocacy for equitable enrolment and curriculum development that addresses family-life skills.

This excerpt from NEPAD’s “Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance” highlights a commitment to human development and women’s equality.

We [heads of state and government] reaffirm our conviction that the development of Africa is ultimately the responsibility of Africans themselves. Africa’s development begins with the quality of its human resources. We, therefore, undertake to work towards the enhancement of our human resources through the provision of more and better education and training, especially in information and communications technology and other skills central to a globalizing world; and better health care, with priority attention to address HIV/AIDS and other pandemic diseases.

The marginalization of women remains real despite the progress of recent years. We will, therefore, work with renewed vigour to ensure gender equality and ensure the full and effective integration of women in political and socio-economic development.

CHARTING POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP WITHIN NEPAD'S HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This chart outlines some key areas in which UNFPA could support NEPAD objectives through regional economic commissions and groupings as well as in collaboration with other UN agencies.

NEPAD OBJECTIVES

NEPAD PROPOSED ACTIONS

AREAS OF UNFPA PARTNERSHIP, EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT

POVERTY REDUCTION

- Reduce by one half the level of extreme poverty by 2015
- Reduce poverty among women
- Support existing poverty initiatives at the multilateral level

- Develop country plans to assess their poverty reduction impact
- Accelerate implementation of the Comprehensive Development Framework, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and related approaches
- Ensure that issues faced by poor women are addressed in poverty-reduction strategies
- Accelerate the adoption of participatory and decentralized processes in the social services arena

- Identify the most vulnerable segments of the population and evaluate the extent to which current national and subregional policies and programmes address their needs
- Collaborate with gender units within regional economic institutions and support for parliamentarians in Africa

HEALTH SECTOR

- Control communicable diseases
- Create an effective health system
- Empower Africans to improve their own health
- Reduced disease burden on the poorest people in Africa

- Expand access to affordable drugs, including improving delivery systems for essential drugs and supplies
- Mobilize resources for health systems, infrastructure and management
- Campaign to increase international support for fighting HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases by at least US\$ 10 billion per annum
- Increase government funding for health

- **NATIONAL LEVEL** Support reproductive health information and services, including family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention
- Improve reproductive health commodity supply and management
- Promote adolescent reproductive health and maternal mortality reduction
- **REGIONAL LEVEL** Support strategic and policy-level training within regional training institutions
- Assist with database development, data analysis and policy formulation
- Provide training in reproductive health services management and behaviour change communication

EDUCATION

- Universal primary education by 2015
- Improve curricula and access to information and communication technology
- Expand access to secondary education and improve its relevance to the world of work
- Promote networks of specialized research and higher education

- Review current education initiatives
- Advance norms and standards for government expenditure on education
- Accelerate the introduction of information and communication technology in primary schools
- Improve research capacity on a regional basis

- **NATIONAL LEVEL** Promote gender equity in enrolment
- Contribute educational content on sexuality, health and life skills in formal and non-formal settings
- **REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS** Integrate population and family-life education and communication modules into training activities to reach community-based public sector and civil society personnel working in various sectors, including agriculture, labour, and social and health services
- **AT ALL LEVELS** Strengthen evidence-based programming strategies

WATER/SANITATION

- Sustainable access to safe and adequate clean water supply and sanitation for all
- National and regional cooperation on and sharing and development of water resources
- Sustain ecosystems, biodiversity and wildlife
- Address climate change
- Enhance irrigation and rain-fed agriculture

- Accelerate work on multipurpose water resource projects
- Plan for the impact of climate change
- Partner with the Global Environmental Sanitation Initiative
- Support the United Nations Habitat programme on Water Conservation in African Cities

- Provide technical assistance in evaluating population impact of existing and new policies and programmes including database development for monitoring purposes
- Provide technical assistance in factoring population concerns into such new policies and programmes in respect of water and sanitation infrastructure development projects
- Promote sustainable access to potable water and adequate sanitation as a critical component of the health of women and children, especially in rural areas

AGRICULTURE

- Improve productivity, particularly that of small-scale and women farmers
- Food security and adequate nutrition for all
- Encourage environmentally sustainable production methods and protect natural resources
- Integrate the rural poor into the market economy (including export markets)
- Make Africa a net exporter of agricultural products
- Build capacity in agricultural science and technologies

- Establish small-scale irrigation facilities and increase the exchange of technical know-how
- Improve land tenure security and promote necessary land reforms
- Foster food security through increased production, transport, storage and marketing of food crops, livestock and fisheries
- Address the food security needs of the poor and monitor droughts and crop production
- Enhance agricultural credit and finance schemes, and improve access to credit for small-scale and women farmers
- Encourage the transfer of resources from urban to rural activities
- Develop new partnership schemes to address donor fatigue
- Encourage research and build capacity on food and agricultural products
- Support networking with external partners in agricultural technology and know-how, extension services and rural infrastructure

- Provide technical assistance in evaluating population impacts and consequences of existing policies and programmes including database development for monitoring purposes
- Provide technical assistance in factoring population concerns into new policies and programmes for sustainable, people-centred development
- Provide technical assistance to regional economic and financial institutions to include population in their policy advice and operational programmes of assistance in the agricultural sector

population and progress: findings from the *State of the World Population 2002*

The Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without addressing the key areas of UNFPA's mandate. Incontrovertible evidence links reproductive health, women's empowerment and demographic processes to poverty reduction and social and economic development. The *State of the World Population 2002* analyses these linkages in considerable detail. Excerpts that are especially relevant to the situation of Africa follow:*

Achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals depends in part on the universal availability of family planning and other reproductive and sexual health services.

Pointing to a "population effect" on economic growth, the report cites new data showing that since 1970, developing countries with lower fertility and slower population growth have seen higher productivity, more savings and more productive investment. They have registered faster economic growth.

Investments in health and education, and gender equality are vital to this effect. Family planning programmes and population assistance were responsible for almost one third of the global decline in fertility from 1972 to 1994. These social investments attack poverty directly and empower individuals, especially women. They enable choice.

Given a real choice, poor people in developing countries have smaller families than their parents did. This downturn in fertility at the "micro" level translates within a generation into potential economic growth at the "macro" level, in the form of a large group of working-age people supporting relatively fewer older and younger dependents.

This "demographic window" opens only once and will close as populations age and older dependents increase. When other policies are supportive, the opportunity can allow dramatic progress. The effect of declining fertility in Brazil has been equal to economic growth of 0.7 per cent of GDP per capita each year.

The gap between the rich and poor continues to widen, and the poorest countries continue to lag behind.

Poor health, illiteracy, inadequate schooling, social exclusion, powerlessness and gender discrimination contribute to poverty. Poor health diminishes personal capacity, lowers productivity and reduces earnings. A high prevalence of disease and poor health in a country harms economic performance while higher life expectancy, a key indicator of health status, stimulates economic growth.

Progress has been achieved more easily and more quickly in countries that have provided reproductive health services, including family planning, increased the coverage and quality of education, advanced gender equality, and developed responsible and accountable systems of governance and social participation.

Poor people in a 41-country survey cited illness most frequently as a cause of their slide into poverty....

Poor reproductive health is responsible for 40 per cent of the burden of disease for women in sub-Saharan Africa.

* Excerpted from the press summary

An Individual-Centred Approach to Poverty Reduction

The *State of World Population 2002* report also analyses many dimensions of poverty that relate to UNFPA's individual-centred approach to population and development, as outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action.

POVERTY, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT Long-term demographic and economic data from 45 developing countries show that high fertility increases poverty by slowing economic growth and by skewing the distribution of consumption against the poor. UNFPA supports programmes in Africa that help people control their own fertility, which results in smaller families and slower population growth.

POVERTY AND GENDER Empowering women is key to halting the AIDS epidemic. Today women represent 58 per cent of adults infected in hard-hit sub-Saharan Africa. Empowerment of women and girls is a cornerstone of UNFPA's work in Africa.

POOR HEALTH AND POVERTY Poor health is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Poor people in a 41-country survey cited illness most frequently as the cause of their slide into poverty. Poor reproductive health is responsible for 40 per cent of the burden of disease for women in sub-Saharan Africa. The largest share of UNFPA's funds are used to promote reproductive health.

HIV/AIDS AND POVERTY The AIDS pandemic is already slowing economic growth and activity in the worst-affected countries. In the 1990s, the disease reduced Africa's per capita annual growth by about 0.8 per cent. Preventing the spread of HIV is one of UNFPA's priorities.

POVERTY AND EDUCATION Investments in education bring substantial returns. Female education is particularly cost-effective because benefits pass on to children. The "gender gap" in education still deprives girls of secondary education in most of sub-Saharan Africa. UNFPA is a staunch advocate of education for all.

Advocacy and Capacity Building to Help Africa Help Itself

In addition to "bottom-up" approaches that help empower individuals and communities, UNFPA has the capacity to provide assistance and expertise to analyse and articulate the linkages between people-centred development activities and macro-economic concerns through the activities described below. Other UNFPA activities that address NEPAD objectives at the regional and subregional levels are outlined in the chart on pages 4-5.

DATA COLLECTION FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMME DELIVERY, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS Reliable, up-to-date information is a prerequisite for monitoring progress toward NEPAD's objectives, the Millennium Development Goals and other poverty reduction initiatives. UNFPA is building capacity in data collection and disaggregation, to better enable African governments to target policies and programmes to reach disadvantaged groups, including women, youth and the poor.

POPULATION DYNAMICS AND DISTRIBUTION Stabilization of population growth rates and spatial distribution are a precondition for sustainable development. Moreover, lack of attention to the distribution and movement of people—as forced migrants, internally displaced persons or refugees, for example—can have an adverse impact on peace and security. UNFPA helps countries monitor and analyse population dynamics and factor them into national development planning and policy-making.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POPULATION POLICIES With UNFPA assistance, many African countries have adopted comprehensive population policies, though implementation is uneven. UNFPA provides tools and expertise to assist countries in this task and is ready to partner with NEPAD as well.

UNFPA & NEPAD

a shared vision a complementary approach

Excerpts from a statement by Thoraya A. Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA on the New Partnership for Africa's Development

When we talk about NEPAD, we are talking about an expression of Africa's own strategic vision. Its objectives converge with the Millennium Development Goals and with the goals of the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. There is much common ground for cooperation that brings all of us together to implement NEPAD. We must work together to leverage international resources and also generate domestic means for the social agenda for the sustainability of our collective development efforts.

We all know that, of all partners, the African citizens themselves are essential. The men and women in the villages and cities throughout Africa constitute the greatest resource and the greatest hope for positive change. Just as roads must be built, and water and electricity must be provided to improve physical capital, we must also build human capital in order to release the human potential for progress.

We at UNFPA are actually talking about population as it relates to poverty reduction and sustainable development, as well as its impact on the daily lives of people. We talk about saving people's lives in general, and saving women's lives in particular.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND INQUIRIES:

Ms. Fama Ba
 Director, Africa Division
 UNFPA
 220 East 42nd Street
 New York, NY 10017, USA
 Tel.: (212) 297-5151
 Fax: (212) 297-4951
www.unfpa.org/africa
 Or

UNFPA Country Offices in sub-Saharan Africa



United Nations Population Fund