Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled

How we work

UNFPA is on the ground improving lives in about 150 countries that are home to 80 per cent of the world’s population. In these countries, the Fund is a catalyst for progress. Working with governments, and through partnerships with other UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, we make a real difference in the lives of millions of people, especially those most vulnerable.

Our network of regional and subregional offices provides technical expertise and coordinates efforts of our country offices that work on the front lines of development. UNFPA anticipates and responds to tomorrow’s challenges today. We help countries use population data to assess and anticipate needs, and to monitor progress and gaps in delivering on our promises. We provide technical guidance, training and support to empower our partners and colleagues in the field. And we help ensure that the reproductive health and rights of women and young people remain at the very centre of development.
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UNFPA headquarters
Liaison offices
Regional offices
Subregional offices

Delivering for Women and Young People
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Cover: © Mark Tuschman/Planned Parenthood Global • Gatefold: © Mark Tuschman • Interior panels (from left to right): UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin with young people © UNFPA Philippines; Mother and child © Mark Tuschman/Planned Parenthood Global; Mother, baby and midwife © Ra’ad Adayleh; Young girls © Rob McBride.
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Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Few things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades affirm that individuals should have the right (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear. Yet, in the new century, some 222 million women who want to avoid or delay childbearing still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility. Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would mean fewer pregnancies and newborn health problems — and choices to basic health care. This would reduce maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean fewer pregnancies and newborn health services required. This would avert 54 million years of maternal deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths.

People under 25 constitute 43 per cent of the world’s population — and that figure rises to almost 60 per cent in many least developed countries. Their reproductive choices will shape future demographic trends.

Training midwives and health workers

Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines and equipment

Supervising clean birthing kits following disasters

Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care

Enabling birth spacing in emergency situations

Ensuring safe spaces for adolescent girls

Providing counseling and choices to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy

Educating men on the benefits of birth spacing

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth 56 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

Delivering every childbirth is safe

We know how to save almost all women who die giving life. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of realizing maternal health and dignity is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters.

This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal care leading to antenatal care to newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives.

It is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where:

• every pregnancy is wanted
• every childbirth is safe
• every young person’s potential is fulfilled

We are making real progress. Since UNFPA started working in 1969, the number — and take-off — of women dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth has been halved. Families are smaller and healthier: Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before. But too many are still left behind. Nearly a billion people remain mired in extreme poverty. Reproductive health problems are a leading cause of death and disability for women in the developing world. Young people bear the highest risks of HIV infection and unintended pregnancy. More than a hundred million girls face the prospect of child marriage and other harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation or cutting.

Much more needs to be done to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to the most intimate and fundamental aspects of life.

Every young person’s potential is fulfilled

Investing in young people, especially adolescent girls, is one of the smartest investments a country can make. As parents, teachers and leaders of the next generation, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation.

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Delivering every young person’s potential is fulfilled

Promoting the human rights of adolescents

Powering HIV infection

Encouraging young people in decisions that affect them

Supporting age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education

Creating safe spaces for adolescent girls

Encouraging abandonment of harmful practices

Encouraging leadership if current trends continue

In the next decade, 142 million girls will be married by their 18th birthday and 73 million will give birth.

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Training midwives and health workers

Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines and equipment

Supervising clean birthing kits following disasters

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Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean fewer pregnancies and reduced health services required. This would avert 54 million unintended pregnancies, 26 million abortions (of which 16 million are unsafe), and 7 million miscarriages. It would also prevent 750,000 maternal deaths and 11 million infant deaths.

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Much more needs to be done to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to the most intimate and fundamental aspects of life.

We know how to save almost all women who die giving birth. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of realizing maternal health and dignity is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care for newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

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Delivering for Women and Young People

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New York, NY 10158
www.unfpa.org
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Promoting the human rights of adolescents

• Preventing HIV infection
• Engaging young people in decisions that affect them
• Supporting age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education
• Creating safe spaces for adolescent girls
• Encouraging abandonment of harmful practices

UNFPA advocates for the rights of young people, including the right to accurate information and services related to sexuality and reproductive health. Empowered with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation.

Investing in young people, especially adolescent girls, is one of the smartest investments a country can make. As parents, teachers and leaders of the next generation, they can help break the cycle of poverty, strengthen the social fabric and create a sustainable future.

Six things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades affirm that individuals should have the right (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear. Yet in this new century, some 222 million women who want to avoid or delay childbirth still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility.

Simultaneously, the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean fewer pregnancies and resultant health services required. This would avert 54 million maternal deaths, 25 million abortions (of which 16 million are unsafe), and 7 million miscarriages. It would also prevent 79,000 maternal deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths.

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Training health workers to deliver quality family planning services
• Supplier contraceptives in emergency situations
• Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care
• Providing counseling and choice to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy
• Educating men on the benefits of birth spacing

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth 56 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

Every childbirth is safe

We know how to save almost all women who die giving birth. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of reducing maternal death and disability is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care for newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

Training midwives and health workers
• Preventing and treating obstetric fistula
• Supplying clean birthing kits following disasters
• Strengthening emergency obstetric care

In two decades, maternal death worldwide was reduced by 47 per cent. To achieve this, UNFPA has worked with ministries and service providers in every region to help health systems deliver for every woman.

Every young person’s potential is fulfilled

People under 25 constitute 43 per cent of the world’s population – and that figure rises to almost 60 per cent in many least developed countries. Their reproductive choices will shape future demographic trends.

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Providing comprehensive sexuality education
• Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines and equipment
• Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care

In emergency situations, UNFPA has worked with Governments to procure contraceptives worth 462 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

Ensuring the human rights of adolescents

Promoting the human rights of adolescents

According to the United Nations, about 142 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday and 73 million will give birth.

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Much more needs to be done to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to the most intimate and fundamental aspects of life.
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Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Five things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades affirm that individuals should have the right (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear.

Yet, in the new century, some 222 million women who want to avoid or delay childbirth still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility. Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for essential supplies in place, is also critical.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of realizing maternal health and safety is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care for newborns, at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

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Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of realizing their full potential and contributing to economic and social transformation is finding ways to reach all young women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that young women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care for newborns, at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves life.

| Training midwives and health workers | Preventing and treating obstetric fistulas |
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Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean newer pregnancies and related health services required. This would avert 54 million maternal deaths, 25 million abortions (of which 16 million are unsafe), and 7 million miscarriages. It would also prevent 790,000 maternal deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths.

Training health workers to deliver quality family planning services
Supplying contraceptives in emergency situations
Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care
Providing counseling and choices to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy
Educating men on the benefits of birth spacing

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth 16 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

Every childbirth is safe

We know how to save almost all women who die giving life. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of reducing maternal death and disability is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care to newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

Training midwives and health workers
Providing clean birthing kits following disasters
Ensuring essential medicines and equipment
Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines
Preventing and treating obstetric fistulas
Supplying clean birthing kits following disasters

In two decades, maternal death worldwide was reduced by 47 per cent. UNFPA has worked with ministries and service providers in every region to help health systems deliver for women.

People under 25 constitute 43 per cent of the world’s population—and that figure rises to almost 60 per cent in many least developed countries. Their reproductive choices will shape future demographic trends.

UNFPA advocates for the rights of young people, including the right to accurate information and services related to sexuality and reproductive health. Empowered with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation.

Investing in young people, especially adolescent girls, is one of the smartest investments a country can make. As parents, teachers and leaders of the next generation, they can help break the cycle of poverty, strengthen the social fabric and create a sustainable future.

Every young person’s potential is fulfilled

In 2012, UNFPA worked with ministries and service providers in every region to help health systems deliver for women.

Promoting the human rights of adolescents
Providing HIV infection
Encouraging young people in decisions that affect them
Supporting age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education
Creating safe spaces for adolescent girls
Encouraging the abandonment of harmful practices
Encouraging leadership

If current trends continue in the next decade, 142 million girls will be married by their 18th birthday and 73 million will give birth.
Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Few things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades affirm that individuals should have the free (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear. Yet, in the new century, some 222 million women who want to avoid or delay childbirth still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility. Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean fewer pregnancies and resultant health services required. This would avert 54 million years of potential (of which 16 million are unsafe), and 7 million unintended pregnancies, 26 million abortions, 500,000 newborn deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths.

Training health workers to deliver quality family planning services
Supervising contraceptives in emergency situations
Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care
Providing counseling and choices to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy
Educating men on the benefits of birth spacing

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth $65 million, to protect 100 million pregnancies in 46 priority countries.

Delivering a world where every childbirth is safe

We know how to save almost all women who die giving life. The first step is to ensure they plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of realizing maternal health and dignity is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care for newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

Training midwives and health workers
Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines and equipment
Supplying clean birthing kits following disasters
Preventing and treating obstetric fistula
Enabling birth spacing in two decades, maternal death worldwide was reduced by 47 per cent. UNFPA has worked with ministries and service providers in every region to help health systems deliver for women.

Every young person’s potential is fulfilled

People under 25 constitute 43 per cent of the world’s population — and that figure rises to almost 60 per cent in many least developed countries. Their reproductive choices will shape future demographic trends. UNFPA advocates for the rights of young people, including the right to accurate information and services related to sexuality and reproductive health. Empowered with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation.

Improving young people’s reproductive health care means strengthening emergency obstetric care, ensuring that all young people have access to the services they need. UNFPA works with countries to ensure that young people, especially adolescent girls, have the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, to control their fertility, and to plan their pregnancies safely.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives. It is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where:

• every pregnancy is wanted
• every childbirth is safe
• every young person’s potential is fulfilled

We are making real progress. Since UNFPA started working in 1969, the number — and rate — of women dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth has been halved. Families are smaller and healthier. Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before.

But too many are still left behind. Nearly a billion people remain mired in extreme poverty. Reproductive health problems are a leading cause of death and disability for women in the developing world. Young people bear the highest risks of HIV infection and unintended pregnancy. More than a hundred million girls face the prospect of child marriage and other harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation or cutting.

Much more needs to be done to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to the most intimate and fundamental aspects of life. Young people under 25 constitute 43 per cent of the world’s population – and that figure rises to almost 60 per cent in many least developed countries. Their reproductive choices will shape future demographic trends. UNFPA advocates for the rights of young people, including the right to accurate information and services related to sexuality and reproductive health. Empowered with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation. Investing in young people, especially adolescent girls, is one of the smartest investments a country can make. As parents, teachers and leaders of the next generation, they can help break the cycle of poverty, strengthen the social fabric and create a sustainable future.
Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled

How we work

UNFPA is on the ground improving lives in about 150 countries that are home to 80 per cent of the world’s population. In these countries, the Fund is a catalyst for progress. Working with governments, and through partnerships with other UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, we make a real difference in the lives of millions of people, especially those most vulnerable. Our network of regional and subregional offices provides technical expertise and coordinates efforts of our country offices that work on the front lines of development.

UNFPA anticipates and responds to tomorrow’s challenges today. We help countries use population data to assess and anticipate needs, and to monitor progress and gaps in delivering on our promises. We provide technical guidance, training and support to empower our partners and colleagues in the field. And we help ensure that the reproductive health and rights of women and young people remain at the very centre of development.

Delivering for Women and Young People
It is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where:
• every pregnancy is wanted
• every childbirth is safe
• every newborn survives
• every young person’s potential is fulfilled

We are making real progress. Since UNFPA started working in 1969, the number and rate of women dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth has been halved. Families are smaller and healthier. Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before.

But too many are still left behind. Nearly a billion people remain mired in extreme poverty. Reproductive health problems are a leading cause of death and disability for women in the developing world. Young people bear the highest risks of HIV infection and unintended pregnancy. More than a hundred million girls face the prospect of child marriage and other harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation or cutting.

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Much more needs to be done to ensure a world in which all individuals can exercise their basic human rights, including those that relate to the most intimate and fundamental aspects of life.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives.

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Five things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades affirm that individuals should have the right (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear. Yet, in the new century, some 222 million women who want to avoid or delay childbirth still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility.

Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean fewer pregnancies and maternal complications. It would prevent 54 million unintended pregnancies, 25 million abortions (of which 16 million are unsafe), and 7 million miscarriages. It would also prevent 79,000 maternal deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths.

Training health workers to deliver quality family planning services

Supplying contraceptives in emergency situations

Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care

Providing counseling and choices to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy

Educating men on the benefits of birth spacing

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth $16 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

Every childbirth is safe

We know how to save almost all women who die giving life. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their births. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of reducing maternal death and disability is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters.

This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access all the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care for newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines and equipment

Training midwives and health workers

Supervising clean birthing kits following disasters

Strengthening emergency obstetric care

Enabling birth spacing in two decades, 125 million women will give birth.

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth $16 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

And every young person’s potential is fulfilled

People under 25 constitute 43 per cent of the world’s population – and that figure rises to almost 60 per cent in many least developed countries. Their reproductive choices will shape future demographic trends.

UNFPA advocates for the rights of young people, including the right to accurate information and services related to sexuality and reproductive health. Empowered with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make-informed decisions, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation.

Investing in young people, especially adolescent girls, is one of the smartest investments a country can make. As parents, teachers and leaders of the next generation, they can help break the cycle of poverty, strengthen the social fabric and create a sustainable future.

Promoting the human rights of adolescents

Preventing HIV infection

Engaging young people in decisions that affect them

Supporting age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education

Creating safe spaces for adolescent girls

Encouraging abandonment of harmful practices

Educating young people on effective contraceptive use
Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted

Few things have a greater impact on the life of a woman than the number and spacing of her children. That’s why international agreements going back decades affirm that individuals should have the right (and the means) to freely decide when (or if) to start a family and how many children to bear. Yet, in the new century, some 222 million women who want to avoid or delay childbearing still lack access to the quality services and supplies needed to manage their fertility. Simply meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning would reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly a third, and pay for itself. That’s because adding contraceptive choices to basic health care would mean fewer pregnancies and newborn health complications. It would also prevent 54 million unplanned births, 25 million abortions (of which 16 million are unsafe), and 7 million miscarriages. It would also prevent 170,000 maternal deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths.

Training health workers to deliver quality family planning services
Supplying contraceptives in emergency situations
Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care
Providing counseling and choices to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy
Educating men on the benefits of birth spacing

In 2012, UNFPA helped governments procure contraceptives worth 15 million years of protection for couples in 46 priority countries.

Every childbirth is safe

We know how to save almost all women who die giving life. The first step is to ensure they can plan their pregnancies and space their limits. Skilled birth attendance at delivery, with backup emergency obstetric care and essential supplies in place, is also critical.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of realizing maternal health and dignity is finding ways to reach all women, even those in the poorest, most remote areas, or in times of natural or man-made disasters. This involves bolstering health systems. It is also critical that pregnant women are able to access the care they need, from prenatal HIV testing to antenatal care to newborns at the same clinic or health centre. This approach saves money and saves lives.

Training midwives and health workers
Providing counseling and services related to sexuality and reproductive health
Ensuring reliable supplies of essential medicines and equipment
Supplementing clean birthing kits following disasters
Engaging young people in decisions that affect them
Preventing and treating obstetric fistulas
Enabling birth spacing

In two decades, maternal death worldwide was reduced by 47 per cent. UNFPA has worked with ministries and service providers in every region to help health systems deliver for women.

And every young person’s potential is fulfilled

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Involving young people, especially adolescent girls, in one of the smartest investments a country can make, as parents, teachers and leaders of the next generation, they can help break the cycle of poverty, strengthen the social fabric and create a sustainable future.

Training leaders and health workers
Ensuring youth-friendly reproductive health care
Providing counseling and choices to women who want to avoid or delay pregnancy
Engaging young people in decisions that affect them
Promoting the human rights of adolescents
Providing HIV infection prevention by young people in decisions that affect them
Supporting age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education
Creating safe spaces for adolescent girls
Encouraging abandonment of harmful practices

Promoting the human rights of adolescents
Providing HIV infection prevention by young people in decisions that affect them
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