



20 April 2020

Annex 4

Implementation of global and regional interventions

**Progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan,
2018-2021, and the report of its midterm review**

Report of the Executive Director

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I. Introduction

Global and regional interventions constitute a programmatic instrument of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021, for implementing interventions at regional and global levels. The interventions contribute towards the achievement of the strategic plan results, including the three transformative results: (a) zero preventable maternal deaths; (b) zero unmet need for family planning; and (c) zero gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage. They also contribute to advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The interventions contribute through six broad areas: (a) strengthening advocacy and intergovernmental policy dialogue; (b) building and expanding partnerships, including inter-agency collaboration; (c) enhancing capacity and promoting dissemination of knowledge; (d) providing technical and programmatic advisory support to countries; (e) promoting international norms and standards; and (f) strengthening humanitarian response and preparedness.

This annex highlights, as per the request of the Executive Board in its decision 2017/24, the progress in and expenditure of implementing the global and regional interventions in the period 2018-2019. The annex shows the interventions performed strongly: 89 per cent of the targets for its six regional action plans and 91 per cent of the targets for its global action plan were achieved with a progress of 90 per cent and above. The annex also includes challenges met, emerging opportunities and adjustments made at the midterm review stage to keep progress on track towards the strategic plan results.

II. Summary of key achievements

The global and regional interventions **advocacy and intergovernmental and inter-agency policy dialogue** activities significantly contributed to the advancement of the ICPD Programme of Action, reinforcing the primacy of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender equality, and population data as imperatives to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The interventions contributed to the following key results.

The regional ICPD+25 reviews conducted across all United Nations geographical regions, with support from major global and regional civil society networks, reaffirmed the commitments made at the ministerial level to advance and accelerate ICPD implementation.



500 parliamentarians reaffirmed political support to ICPD agenda

The UNFPA advocacy and policy dialogue work was crucial in supporting the preparation of more than 100 national reports on implementation of ICPD+25.

To support implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action through its global interventions, UNFPA led the development of a global ICPD monitoring framework. The framework aligns the ICPD to the 2030 Agenda, and the regional ICPD+25 reviews informed the 2019 report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Population and Development.

Through its advocacy work at the global level, UNFPA brought together a global, multi-stakeholder community at the high-level Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25: Accelerating the Promise in order to celebrate progress to date and discuss unfinished business, thereby re-energizing and mobilizing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights commitments towards achievement of the ICPD, including the three transformative results of the strategic plan, 2018-2021. More than 500 parliamentarians from more than 130 countries reaffirmed their political support to the ICPD agenda at the Summit.

Cost to achieve Three Transformative Results by 2030 estimated at \$264bln



Global and regional interventions have played an important role in leveraging political support and expanding strategic partnerships to support, in particular, the achievement of the strategic plan's three transformative results.

In 2019 UNFPA, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, the University of Washington, Victoria University and Avenir Health, launched an initiative to estimate global resource needs to achieve the three transformative results by 2030. The preliminary results were announced at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Political Forum in July 2019, followed by the launch during the Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25. The initiative will help UNFPA and its partners make a strong case at global, regional and country levels for the investments needed to achieve the three transformative results by 2030. In 2018, at the seventh International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation on the ICPD, parliamentarians from 70 countries adopted the Ottawa Statement of Commitment to accelerate progress towards achieving the three transformative results.

At the regional level, the East and Southern Africa Regional Office partnered with the private sector on pharmaceutical production to secure generic contraceptives to improve their availability, accessibility and affordability in efforts to end unmet need for family planning. The Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office established partnerships with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Institute for Gender Equality, the University of Melbourne and the National Research Organization for Women's Safety in Australia that has resulted in improved methodology for collecting data on violence against women.

Global and regional interventions have facilitated expansion of South-South and triangular cooperation through inter-agency and intergovernmental collaboration and experience sharing. UNFPA collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) ensured the inclusion of health in the outcome document the General Assembly endorsed in its resolution 73/291 of the second High-level United Nations Conference of South-South Cooperation (known as BAPA+40).

The Fund’s collaboration with the intergovernmental organization, Partners in Population and Development, resulted in voluntary commitments by over 40 countries in 2019 at the Nairobi Summit to engage in South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate achievement of the three transformative results. The Bali Call for Action – issued at the 2018 Inter-ministerial Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and endorsed by more than 26 countries – committed to promote South-South cooperation to advance the ICPD agenda. Over 150 UNFPA personnel from 50 countries have gained skills on how to effectively integrate South-South cooperation as a programming modality for the implementation of country programmes. As a result, there has been a 20 per cent increase, compared to 2017, in UNFPA programme countries utilizing South-South cooperation to achieve results.

UNFPA global and regional interventions have provided **technical and programmatic advisory support** to countries on the policies, advocacy tools and evidence-based data needed, in particular, to prioritize “leaving no one behind” and “reaching the furthest behind first.” The Fund’s key guidance materials in this area include:

- (a) “Guidelines for providing rights-based and gender responsive services to address gender-based violence and the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of women and young persons with disabilities”;
- (b) The new “United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) guidance on Leaving No One Behind to support United Nations Country Teams”, developed in 2018 by the UNSDG Thematic Group on Leaving No One Behind of which UNFPA is a member;
- (c) Global advocacy engagements and expanded strategic partnerships in 2019 with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Government of Costa Rica, the Working Group of Experts on the Rights of People of African Descent, the World Bank and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation to advance the rights and equity of women and girls of African descent;
- (d) The Asia and the Pacific Regional Office helped eight countries in 2019 to map sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights inequalities and identify those that are left behind. UNFPA will provide this type of support in 2020 to another nine countries;
- (e) The Analysis of Reproductive Health Equity in the Arab States region, conducted in 2019, provided decision makers and policymakers in the region with evidence about inequality and inequity of sexual and reproductive health service provision and actions needed to bridge the gaps;

- (f) The Council of Central American Ministers of Health (COMISCA)¹ endorsed the “Inequalities Analysis in Adolescent Pregnancy” completed by the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office in collaboration with Pan-American Health Organization.

UNFPA global and regional interventions **promoted international norms and standards by building capacity and providing programming solutions, including for humanitarian settings**, to country offices and partners across all outcomes of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021. For example, in all regions, the Fund has helped countries to enhance their capacities to adapt the newly released UNFPA operational guidance on comprehensive sexuality education (for in-school and out-of-school programmes), and the guidelines for providing rights-based and gender-responsive services to address gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for women and young persons with disabilities.

In 2019, the Fund’s global interventions built the capacity of 33 country and regional offices to assess and respond to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health needs in humanitarian settings. Fifty-five countries rolled out the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence guidelines; UNFPA has supported 130 countries to generate data for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 5.6.1 using refined methodology.

30 knowledge products and platforms for knowledge sharing created



In 2018-2019, through its global and regional interventions, **UNFPA has created more than 30 knowledge products**, including platforms for knowledge sharing and dissemination.

III. Contribution to achieving the outcomes of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021

Outcome 1: Every woman, adolescent and youth everywhere, especially those furthest behind, has utilized integrated sexual and reproductive health services and exercised reproductive rights, free of coercion, discrimination and violence

In 2018-2019, global and regional interventions to increase utilization of quality sexual and reproductive health services performed strongly, ensuring that no one is left behind and the most vulnerable populations access, at the least, basic services. Chart 1 shows that for most of the targets for these interventions the progress was 90 per cent and above. Regular programme resources expenditures for this outcome were \$12.8 million in 2018 and \$16.0 million in 2019.

¹ COMISCA is composed of each of the Ministers of Health of the eight countries in the region: Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. COMISCA was formed to identify and prioritize regional health issues and is part of the political body of the Central American Integration System.

At global level, the Fund's interventions on **policy and advocacy work** contributed to the adoption of Universal Health Coverage, implementation of the Global Action Plan on Goal 3 and increased prioritization and financing of sexual and reproductive health at the primary health-care level.

Both global and regional interventions supported analyses and generated evidence to inform the Fund's work on addressing inequities in access to integrated sexual and reproductive health services and information, in all settings.

Chart 1. Outcome 1 - GRIs progress towards targets, 2018-2019

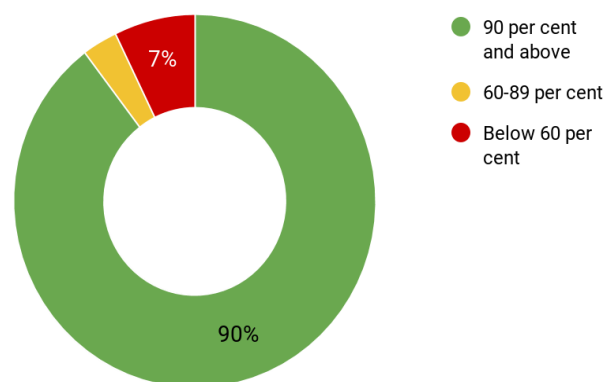
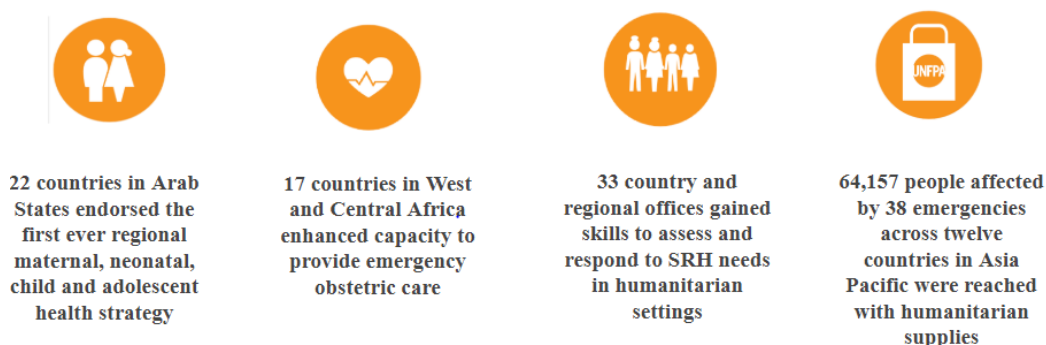


Figure 1. Selected global and regional intervention results in outcome 1, 2018-2019



At regional level, UNFPA **policy and advocacy work** informed and guided intergovernmental and inter-agency processes to address sexual and reproductive health issues. Key results included:

- (a) The launch of the inter-agency strategy to accelerate the reduction of adolescent pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean region, which served as a reference for national policy development or revision in Argentina, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay in 2019;
- (b) The Economic Community of West African States adopted in 2018 the first-ever regional resolution, the Banjul Call for Action: Towards eradicating fistula in the region by 2030;

- (c) The Ulaanbaatar Declaration on disaster risk reduction, issued at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2018, was adopted by the Member States of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific in 2018 to support gender-sensitive and responsive disaster risk reduction actions, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and the importance of addressing women and girls' needs;
- (d) All 14 member states of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum endorsed in 2019 minimum standards for parliamentarians on integrated sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of key populations to serve as an advocacy tool.

UNFPA global and regional interventions prioritized efforts to coordinate **timely responses and to build national capacities in order to provide timely lifesaving assistance and to scale up humanitarian action** (see annex 3 of document DP/FPA/2019/4). Through its global interventions, UNFPA continued collaborating with the Inter-agency Logistics Network to deliver timely and sustainable reproductive health essential medicines, commodities and supplies, and provided regional and country offices with guidance and tools on critical sexual and reproductive health needs to increase access and utilization of services in fragile and humanitarian settings.

In 2019, global interventions coordinated the procurement and delivery of supplies worth \$19.4 million to 53 countries to support life-saving emergency obstetric and newborn care, clinical management of rape, voluntary family planning, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

The Fund's regional interventions were instrumental in country offices' **resilience-building work and preparedness and humanitarian response**. The Asia and the Pacific regional office institutionalized and rolled out the new Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), in collaboration with International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and trained 307 UNFPA country office staff, government counterparts and other stakeholders in 10 countries in emergency preparedness and response. The UNFPA Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, in response to the evolving humanitarian situation in Venezuela, collaborated with United Nations organizations, the Governments of bordering and nearby countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana and Trinidad, and other partners by providing technical advice and by building national capacity to implement the MISP so as to tailor it to the needs in each country. This included using UNFPA-provided emergency reproductive health kits to improve access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, focused on prevention of maternal mortality and unintended pregnancies. In 2019, the Arab States regional office created a regional roster of 37 multilingual MISP experts for timely and quality crisis response. Humanitarian supplies from the Asia and the Pacific Regional Prepositioning Initiative valued at over \$900,000 reached an estimated 64,157 beneficiaries affected by 38 emergencies across 12 countries.

UNFPA capacity building of country offices and partners, including the delivery of technical and programmatic advisory support, played an essential role in increasing use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services:

- (a) The East and Southern Africa regional office prepared 70 master trainers in eSwatini, Malawi and Botswana on the values and attitudes of health-care providers regarding post-abortion care services in 2019;
- (b) The Latin America and the Caribbean regional office strengthened the capacity of 15 countries in 2019 on the use of logistics management information systems, third-party procurement, and the methodology of the economic impact of adolescent pregnancies in the region;
- (c) The Arab States regional office prioritized 12 high burden countries in 2019 for its technical advisory support on maternal health, family planning and health financing policies as part of efforts to achieve universal health coverage;
- (d) The Fund enhanced the capacity for forecasting, procurement and monitoring of reproductive health commodities in 31 country offices in Latin America and the Caribbean and West and Central Africa regions in 2018.

UNFPA global and regional interventions identified the following challenges to increasing the use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services:

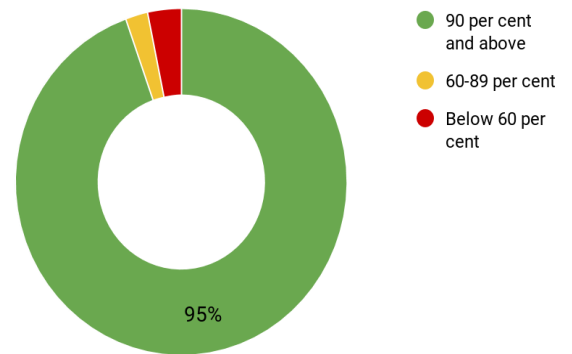
- (a) Increasing demand of UNFPA programme countries for health economics analysis and costing of sexual and reproductive health services at the primary health-care level in the context of universal health coverage;
- (b) Gaps in capacity and experience of UNFPA country offices to address the need for sexual and reproductive health services for people with disabilities;
- (c) Lack of methodology to identify and measure inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights at subregional levels;
- (d) Limited availability of financial and human resources at global and regional levels to meet and to respond in a timely manner to recurrent and protracted crises.

To address the challenges, UNFPA should: (a) invest in health economics analytics and the development of investment cases for sexual and reproductive health services; (b) expand the engagement of civil society partners and people with disabilities; and (c) continue building humanitarian capacity across the Fund.

Outcome 2: Every adolescent and youth, in particular adolescent girls, is empowered to have access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in all contexts

During 2018-2019, global and regional interventions focused on promoting universal access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and on addressing barriers to young people’s participation and representation in development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. These interventions showed strong performance: 95 per cent of the targets recorded progress of 90 per cent and above. The expenditure on these interventions was \$4.0 million in 2018 and \$4.2 million in 2019, from regular resources.

Chart 2. Outcome 2 - GRIs progress towards targets, 2018-2019



Key results of UNFPA **advocacy and partnership work** in 2018-2019 include the launch of the first United Nations Youth Strategy (Youth2030) and the adoption of the global Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, which commits governments to promote youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education within national youth policies. Leveraging the global interventions’ technical role, the Fund’s new global strategy on adolescents and youth, “My Body, My Life, My World” was launched in 2019. The strategy emphasizes the centrality of leadership and innovation by young people in achieving the three transformative results and the Goals.

Through its global and regional interventions, UNFPA continued to co-lead in **global multi-stakeholder platforms** such as the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security. In these interventions, UNFPA provided secretariat functions for the development of the independent progress study *The Missing Peace* on youth, peace and security (launched in 2018), setting the agenda for the role of young people for peace, social cohesion and prevention of conflict (follow-up to Security Council resolution 2250).

Regional interventions translated global-level **guidance and strategies** into regional priorities. The Latin America and the Caribbean regional office launched the regional strategy, 2019-2021, to promote the rights of people with disabilities and rolled out the regional youth participation strategy, known as “Youth Now!” in 15 countries of the region. The Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and protecting Children Already in Marriage, developed with support of the UNFPA Eastern and Southern Africa regional office, was rolled out in four countries of the region. The youth priorities of the ICPD and the Sustainable Development Goals were integrated in the European Youth Goals, courtesy of the collaboration between the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional office, the Government of Bulgaria, the European Union, and European regional youth networks.

Figure 2. Selected results in outcome 2



UNFPA global and regional interventions were instrumental in **expanding strategic partnerships** to promote coordinated efforts to advance adolescent and youth rights. Key results include:

- (a) The inter-agency guidelines on young people in humanitarian action were developed in 2019 under the co-leadership of UNFPA and the International Federation of the Red Crescent and in collaboration with over 50 member organizations of the Compact for Youth in Humanitarian Action;
- (b) The regional task force to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals achievements in conflict-affected countries in the Arab region (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Somalia) was established in 2019, of which the Arab States regional office is a part. The task force is preparing a regional report on achieving the Goals in these countries, with the UNFPA regional office contribution to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of women and girls are well positioned in it.
- (c) The Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional office, in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, developed the new programming tool – Health, Rights, and Well-being – for HIV and sexual and reproductive health programmes for young key populations. Four countries in the region rolled out this programme in 2019;
- (d) The “165 Million Reasons: A call for investment in adolescents and youth in Latin America and the Caribbean” campaign was launched through the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office in 2019 to scale up programmes for adolescents and young people across the region;
- (e) The regional and national “Let’s Talk” campaign to reduce early and unintended pregnancies was launched through the Eastern and Southern Africa regional office in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS) and Save the Children Sweden in 2019;

- (f) A United Nations blueprint for accelerating joint United Nations advocacy and communications on comprehensive sexuality education in the Asia and the Pacific region was developed jointly with UNESCO and UNICEF in 2019;
- (g) A youth, peace and security joint project to foster social cohesion and reconciliation, enhance attitudes of tolerance, and reduce prejudice and discrimination among youth in the Western Balkans was launched in 2019 as a result of the partnership of the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional office with the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, UNDP and UNICEF. The project is funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.²

UNFPA global and regional interventions for **technical and programmatic advisory support** strengthened national capacities in adolescent and youth empowerment in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Highlights of achievement include:

- (a) Eleven countries in the West and Central Africa region implemented comprehensive sexuality education programmes;
- (b) Six countries used information technology platforms to deliver sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights information to out-of-school young people in the Asia and the Pacific region, with technical support from the regional office;
- (c) Five countries (Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay) assessed the economic impact of adolescent pregnancies, using a regional office developed methodology called MILENA;
- (d) Seven countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Arab States regions participated in a joint assessment and dissemination of lessons learned in peacebuilding practices;
- (e) Guidelines to support national budget processes for the prevention, mediation and protection against child marriage were launched in 2019 in the East and Southern Africa region jointly with UNICEF.

The global and regional interventions, in partnership with youth-led organizations and other United Nations entities on joint advocacy and research, accelerated awareness of youth agency and leadership and contributed to the increased focus on youth participation to advance the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, the UNFPA Youth Strategy and Youth 2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy, at country level. Results from the strengthening of national **youth platforms and networks** include:

² The Regional Youth Cooperation Office is an independently functioning institutional mechanism founded six participants of the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,* Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. It aims to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between youth in the region through youth exchange programmes. The agreement establishing the office was signed by the prime ministers of the six participating Western Balkans countries at the Western Balkans Summit held in Paris on 4 July 2016. See https://www.rycowb.org/?page_id=7704.

- (a) Placing adolescents and youth ‘front and centre’ on the road to Nairobi and at the Nairobi Summit in 2019; 40 per cent of the 1,383 Nairobi commitments focused on adolescents and youth;
- (b) Launching of the Youth Charter in the Arab Region and the digital platform (Menassati) to strengthen youth development in the region, as a result of youth fora organized by the Arab States regional office in 2018 and 2019;
- (c) Making more than 730 young leaders in the Latin America and the Caribbean region (representing indigenous, feminist, people of African descent, LGBTQI, people with disabilities) advocates of the ICPD and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in their communities, countries and regions, as a result of the regional youth participation strategy (Youth Now!);
- (d) Rolling out the youth-led Youth Leadership, Participation, and Accountability framework in seven countries of East and Southern Africa, with the participation of over 200 young people and 30 development stakeholders, in partnership with the civil society organization, Restless Development;
- (e) Using the ‘Leaving No One Behind’ hackathon, created by the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional office, as a platform for vulnerable young people to find innovative ways to reach out to their peers; the hackathon engaged 24 young activists from 16 countries.

Contributing to the empowerment of adolescents and youth revealed some lessons, including:

- (a) Conflicts and humanitarian settings have detrimental effects on programming and progress on access services;
- (b) Increasing populism and well-organized opposition to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, including comprehensive sexuality education, impede implementation of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights policies and programmes;
- (c) While adolescent sexual and reproductive health laws and policies are improving, investment in comprehensive programmes to improve access to prevention, treatment and care remains insufficient;
- (d) Despite increased focus on menstrual health, more multi-sectoral approaches that integrate menstrual health management in broader sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights responses are needed;
- (e) In the context of shrinking civic space in some countries and regions, finding innovative ways to reach young people and make their voices heard and represented is essential;
- (f) Addressing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and HIV, especially with regard to reaching furthest behind young key populations, remains a struggle.

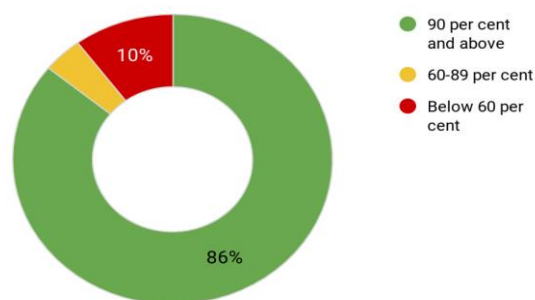
To address many of these challenges, it is critical to:

- (a) Mobilize young people in the follow up to the commitments and momentum of the Nairobi Summit;
- (b) Engage adolescent and youth, especially those representing marginalized groups, in policy design and delivery of services;
- (c) Improve coordination and support to operationalize the United Nations Youth Strategy 2030 at country level;
- (d) Expand partnerships, including with youth networks, and increase resource mobilization to advance adolescent and youth rights;
- (e) Prioritize information technology and digital solutions to reach young people at scale.

Outcome 3: Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and reproductive rights are advanced in development and humanitarian settings

In 2018-2019, performance was relatively strong for outcome 3, for both global and regional interventions: 86 per cent of global and regional intervention targets achieved a progress rate of 90 per cent and above (chart 3). The regular resource expenditure on these interventions was \$4.5 million in 2018 and \$4.3 million in 2019.

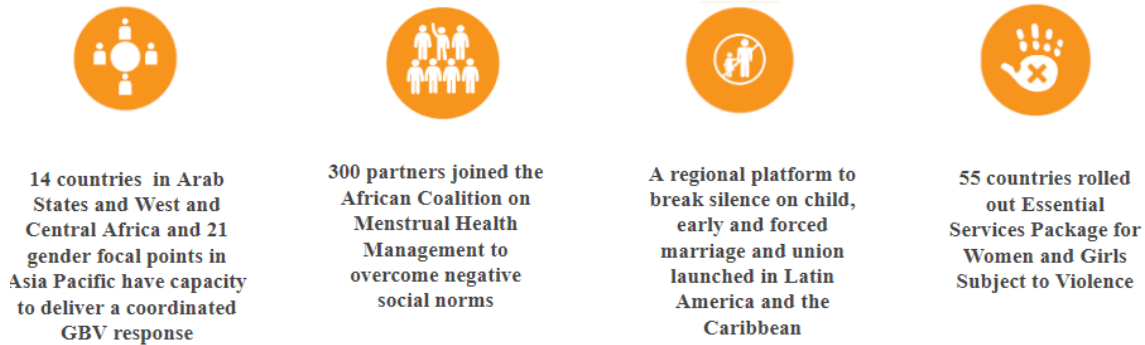
Chart 3. Outcome 3 - GRIs progress towards targets, 2018-2019



Through its global and regional interventions, UNFPA supported **research** on women’s ability to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and access to services, and on legislation about access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights. Global interventions led to the launch of the new UNFPA Gender Equality Strategy in 2019. The strategy outlines how to apply a gender lens across all priority areas of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021.

Global and regional interventions played a catalytic role in raising awareness of the barriers that groups such as people of African descent, indigenous people, people with disabilities, adolescent girls and migrants face when they try to access quality sexual and reproductive health services. For example, through the global We Decide initiative, UNFPA has developed and provided guidance for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence services to deliver to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Figure 3. Selected results in outcome 3



With the support of UNFPA global and regional interventions, countries **generated evidence and increased the capacity of** partners and national human rights institutions in advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls:

- (a) Sixteen countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in 2019 gained the capacity to implement the essential service package to respond to violence against women and generate data and evidence on child, early and forced marriage;
- (b) The analysis of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, undertaken through the global interventions, informed 35 countries in the efforts to formulate evidence-based advocacy actions on implementation of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence related recommendations;
- (c) Through South-South cooperation, countries in the East and Southern Africa region obtained knowledge from the Asia and the Pacific region and enhanced their capacity to collect evidence-based data on violence against women;
- (d) Six hundred humanitarian actors acquired skills in case management of gender-based violence, clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence-related programming and mainstreaming.

Global and regional interventions were instrumental in providing **guidance and tools** and in adapting them to various regional contexts:

- (a) Thirteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and across Africa rolled out training tools for the Spotlight Initiative in 2018;
- (b) Eleven countries rolled out guidelines on engaging with national human rights institutions in 2019;
- (c) SDG indicator 5.6.2 on laws to guarantee equal access to sexual and reproductive health was reclassified to tier II and rolled out for use by Member States;

- (d) The monitoring and evaluation framework, devised by the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional office to measure change in social norms related to FGM, was tested in Guinea and Ethiopia and will be rolled out in other countries in 2020.

As the lead entity on the gender-based violence area of responsibility, UNFPA, through its global interventions, **coordinated work in 35 humanitarian settings** and provided inter-agency policy advice and guidance to gender-based violence sub-clusters at country level. With the support of UNFPA regional interventions, 23 countries established information management systems for gender-based violence in order to strengthen case management.

Newly established and **expanded partnerships, including within context of United Nations reforms**, at global and regional levels, played an important role in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls:

- (a) UNFPA, in cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands, the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNHCHR, the United Kingdom (UK Aid), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank Group and WHO developed United Nations system-wide violence against women prevention framework, known as RESPECT;
- (b) The United Nations Interagency Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality, co-chaired by UNFPA and UN-Women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region is recognized as best in the region in providing technical and strategic guidance to United Nations Country Teams and Gender Theme Groups;
- (c) The regional strategy for prevention and response to gender-based violence in humanitarian situations was developed in the West and Central Africa region under the leadership of UNFPA and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with the participation of 11 UNFPA country offices in the region;
- (d) In the Arab States regional office, UNFPA, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNDP and UN-Women, launched the regional programme, Gender Justice and the Law, to influence legal frameworks on gender in the region;
- (e) With support from a collaboration between the Asia and the Pacific regional office and UN-Women, in 2019 Country Teams and Gender Theme Groups in nine countries enhanced their capacity to apply the United Nations Country Team System-wide Action Plan (known as UNCT-SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard and a human rights-based approach for developing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

In advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls, UNFPA global and regional interventions faced challenges, including:

- (a) Regional offices have resource gaps vis-a-vis the increasing demand for assistance in measuring the prevalence of violence against women in humanitarian settings;
- (b) Changing policies, laws and social norms are long-term undertakings; demonstrating results in the short run is difficult;
- (c) Limited availability of experts on harmful practices and social norms change affects timely response to country offices.

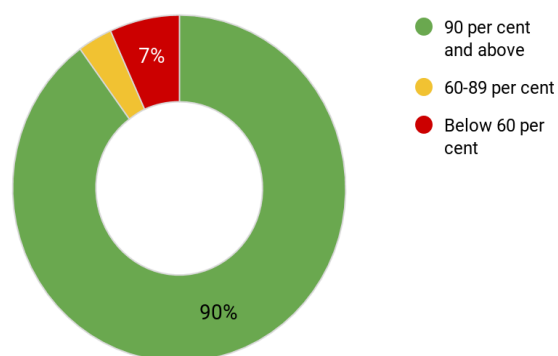
In the process, through its global and regional interventions, UNFPA learned the following lessons:

- (a) Sustainable capacity-building strategies, together with sustained country support to surveys and advocacy for ethical and safe data collection and use, are essential to adequately respond to the demand for data on violence against women;
- (b) Gender-based violence prevention and social norm change require a comprehensive and holistic approach;
- (c) Work on child marriage in humanitarian settings often remains neglected in the humanitarian response while development interventions may not always integrate humanitarian situations, hence use of adaptive programming is required;
- (d) Interagency collaboration in supporting countries through UNSDCF engagement and joint capacity building have proven to be strategic and effective.

Outcome 4: Everyone, everywhere, is counted, and accounted for, in the pursuit of sustainable development

UNFPA global and regional interventions in outcome 4 showed strong performance: 90 per cent of targets achieved a rate of progress of 90 per cent and above. Regular resources expenditure for this outcome was \$9.3 million in 2018 and \$10.0 million in 2019.

Chart 4. Outcome 4 - GRIs progress towards targets, 2018-2019



The global and regional interventions enabled UNFPA to continue supporting the production and use of high quality, disaggregated population data, and to continue using tools to modernize censuses, including geospatial mapping and small area estimates to help countries monitor the progress of implementation of the ICPD and Agenda 2030, including national level tracking of the Goals.

Figure 4. Selected results in outcome 4



Through its global and regional interventions, UNFPA provided **technical and advisory support to country offices and partners** in order to strengthen national and regional data systems. Examples include:

- (a) The Arab States Regional Ageing Strategy, 2019-2029, was developed with support from the Arab States regional office and the League of Arab States in 2019;
- (b) Eight countries in the Asia and the Pacific region received technical assistance from the Asia and the Pacific regional office in relation to their 2019 population censuses;
- (c) With the support from a partnership between the Latin America and Caribbean regional office and the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean, four countries in the region (Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Peru) gained the capacity to produce population projections;
- (d) Seven countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region included SDG 5.6.1-related questions in the new generations and gender programme questionnaire, with support from the regional office;
- (e) Six country offices in the Eastern and Southern Africa region received the regional office technical support on modalities to harness census data in support of vulnerable populations affected by cyclones and to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services throughout the countries.

UNFPA global and regional interventions also worked to strengthen the capacities of partners and country offices in the areas of census, geospatial mapping, data for policy engagement, low fertility and ageing. Examples include:

- (a) UNFPA provided capacity-building support to 114 countries (63 in 2018 and 51 in 2019) on how to process, integrate, disseminate and use georeferenced and geo-coded population data, including for national and subnational population projections;
- (b) UNFPA provided support to 45 countries (39 in 2018 and 6 in 2019) in strengthening humanitarian data to generate common operational datasets;

- (c) UNFPA trained more than 80 specialists from 17 countries of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region on population and development issues, including population projections, with the support of the regional office in 2018-2019;
- (d) UNFPA strengthened the capacity of all Caribbean countries on population and housing census planning and implementation, as a result of training provided by the Latin America and the Caribbean regional office in 2019;
- (e) UNFPA strengthened capacity of four country offices in undertaking Country Common Assessment (Indonesia) and in formulating national ageing policies (Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Viet Nam), as a result of support from the Asia and the Pacific regional office in 2019;
- (f) UNFPA strengthened the capacity of 52 census managers and SDG focal points from 16 countries in the East and Southern Africa region on potential uses of digital censuses, including generation of indicators, spatial analysis for monitoring progress of SDGs, African Agenda 2063, and national development plans, with support from the East and Southern Africa regional office and the Economic Commission for Africa;
- (g) Forty-five data experts and 26 statisticians from 12 countries and three training institutions in the West and Central Africa region gained hands-on experience in collecting data for a census/survey using a CSPro Android solution³ and making a small area estimation in 2019.

UNFPA global and regional interventions worked on the **adaptation and rollout of international standards and tools**, including in the key areas of ageing, geospatial mapping, humanitarian, FGM data, child marriage data and SDG 5.6 indicators. Examples of achievements include:

- (a) Numerous global technical briefs were rolled out in support of the 2020 round of censuses, including on measuring disability, migration and civil vital registration data; and in generating model-based spatially disaggregated population estimates in hard-to-reach territories, among others;
- (b) Two policy papers were issued on low fertility to guide countries on the determinants of low fertility and the policy options under human rights and gender-based approaches;
- (c) International standards on census were promoted in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region through a series of training with the United States Bureau of the Census on CSPro data processing system and United Nations Statistics Division on the census 2020 round, covering more than 50 specialists from the region in 2018-2019;
- (d) In 2019, a civil registration and vital statistics report – with disaggregated data on causes of deaths, including maternal deaths, rates of births and deaths by administrative units and demographic characteristics – was completed in four countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, in collaboration with national Governments, UNECA, UNICEF and WHO;

³ The latest CSPro software version 7.3 beta.

- (e) In 2019, the Arab States Regional Office produced the report, “A Mapping of Population Policies in the Arab Region and Their Alignment with Existing Strategies in Relation to the ICPD: Findings from 10 Countries”;
- (f) The first review of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus was produced and presented during the 52nd Commission on Population and Development by the Latin America and the Caribbean regional office in 2019; and 34 indicators of the Montevideo Consensus have been integrated into the Regional Monitoring Framework of the 2030 Agenda (including unmet need of family planning and femicides) in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in 2018;
- (g) A regional study on sustainable development, rights and changing demography was published in Asia and the Pacific in 2019;
- (h) With the work of the regional office, UNFPA was a key stakeholder in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in 2019, assisting countries in implementing SDG targets 17.18 and 17.19 and advocating for the strengthening of statistical systems aligned with the United Nations Principles for Official Statistics.

In contributing to strengthening population data systems, UNFPA global and regional interventions identified the following challenges: (a) some countries tend to focus narrowly on low fertility; it is difficult to redirect their focus to broader issues; (b) some donors do not prioritize emerging population issues such population ageing and low fertility; (c) the recent rise of populism and pro-natalist sentiment; (d) insufficient funding for population data initiatives, such as censuses, SDGs, and humanitarian data calls for strengthened advocacy efforts.

In contributing to the strengthening of population data systems through global and regional interventions, UNFPA learned that:

- (a) Partnering with the League of Arab States on developing and endorsing the Arab States Ageing Strategy and in creating the Arab Population Council to advocate for the ICPD agenda was a critical mechanism in implementing programmes at the regional and country levels;
- (b) Investing in data analysis and developing proper advocacy messages are important before making demographic survey data available to national partners and the public;
- (c) Strengthening capacity in digital census and SDG monitoring is necessary to achieve the Goals and the ICPD goals;
- (d) Pursuing strong coordination with national data producers and users and demonstrating the value of data for development are critical.

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency

UNFPA global and regional interventions posted steady performance in contributing towards increasing organizational effectiveness and efficiency: 87 per cent of output targets achieved a rate of progress of 90 per cent and above (see chart 5). The expenditure on these interventions was \$3.9 million in 2018 and \$4.0 million in 2019, all from programme regular resources.

Chart 5. OEE - GRIs progress towards targets, 2018-2019

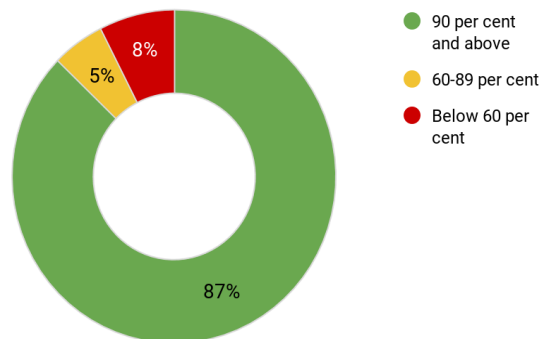


Figure 5. Selected results in organizational effectiveness and efficiency



Through its global and regional interventions, UNFPA **promoted innovation and results-based management**. The East and Southern Africa Regional Office established the iAccelerator platform to facilitate the generation of new ideas to address programmatic bottlenecks and accelerate progress towards achieving the three transformative results. The regional office supported Angola, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to host innovation events and enhance partnerships with implementing partners for innovation. The iAccelerator platform generated new programming solutions, such as the mHealth tool developed by Angola and the real-time monitoring system for fistula programmes by Mozambique.

In promoting results-based management, the Asia and the Pacific regional office set up the results-based management (RBM) regional forum for peer-to-peer exchange in order to showcase RBM innovations and generate innovative solutions that address common RBM challenges. All regional interventions played an important role in improving evaluation capacity. This role contributed to strong 2019 UNFPA performance – 100 per cent of country programme evaluations were rated as 'good'. The Arab States regional office partnered with YouthEvalMENA to enhance the quality

of country programme evaluations by recruiting junior evaluation experts for the first time.

Through its global and regional interventions, the Fund continued to **build the capacity of country offices in minimum preparedness actions**. Most countries, 87 per cent, in the West and Central Africa region now have the capacity to implement at least nine of 13 humanitarian/emergency Minimum Preparedness Actions. Global interventions expanded the surge roster from 130 deployments in 2018 to 380 by the end of 2019 to help countries respond to emergencies.

Global and regional interventions also **increased the visibility** of UNFPA at regional and global levels by communicating UNFPA results through social media and other communication channels.

In improving organizational effectiveness and efficiency, UNFPA global and regional interventions revealed the following: (a) continuous capacity building of country offices in results-based management is essential for improving the quality of programmes; (b) assessing national evaluation capacity is time-consuming and resource intense; (c) a limited donor base and political pushback, which sometimes opposes sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and gender-based violence negatively impact resource mobilization targets in some regions.

By implementing its global and regional interventions, UNFPA learned the following important lessons:

- (a) Exploring new ways to build RBM capacity beyond traditional training sessions proved to be effective and well perceived by country offices;
- (b) Assessing the availability of human and financial resources prior to undertaking evaluation capacity assessments at the national level is essential to maximizing success;
- (c) Regional resource mobilization proposals are an effective fundraising strategy for countries with limited donor presence, especially when it comes to issues that are not attractive to donors.

IV. Midterm review of UNFPA global and regional interventions

In line with the midterm review of its strategic plan, 2018-2021, UNFPA conducted a midterm review of six regional and one global action plan, in line with Executive Board decision 2017/23, which requested UNFPA to present such a review to the Executive Board at its annual session 2020.

The midterm review focuses on maintaining continuity in contributing toward the priorities of the strategic plan, 2018-2021, while allowing flexibility to adapt to a changing environment. The review assessed progress against regional and global action plan targets and recommended adjustments to the programme to address changing needs and implementation challenges. The methodology used included desk reviews, analysis of evaluative evidence and consultation with stakeholders.

Some of the challenges affecting the performance of the global and regional interventions included:

- (a) Political pushback around sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender equality, including issues pertaining to gender-based violence, which has resulted in limited domestic funding and resources for the sustainable provision of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in some contexts;
- (b) Increasing decentralization of health systems and the associated increase in resources needed to influence health policies, strategies and programmes at subnational levels;
- (c) An increasing need to strengthen the links between sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and climate change and to focus on building resilient systems and communities;
- (d) The need for better disaggregated data and analyses to ensure identification of and outreach to the most left behind populations, including those affected by crises.

The midterm review found that the global and regional interventions' theories of change continues to be applicable and, accordingly, the overall progress monitoring framework remains valid.

Areas that need increased attention

UNFPA global and regional interventions will continue to prioritize leaving no one behind and reaching furthest behind first. The interventions will, among other things, facilitate assessments and enhance national capacities to collect national and subnational-level data to identify populations left behind and to understand their risks of facing sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence hazards, such as maternal death, gender-based violence or harmful practices such as FGM, child marriage or early unions.

The interventions will expand technical support and guidance to countries on applying and expanding approaches to social norms that overcome barriers to women's access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights services, preventing and addressing gender-based violence and promoting women and girls' reproductive rights.

The global interventions will establish a programming compact for mobilization of resources and political will to realize equity and inclusion of peoples of African descent and indigenous peoples.

The global interventions will expand the surge roster and roving teams to quickly respond to countries' needs in humanitarian settings and continue building the capacity of countries for the 13 minimum preparedness actions and thereby increase the number of countries capable of taking all minimum actions. With a growing number of humanitarian crises around the world, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa regional offices will focus more on providing timely responses to countries in need and ensure that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence issues are part of interagency and national humanitarian response plans.

Mental health and psychosocial support is now a new programme focus of the global and regional action plans. The global interventions will develop guidance and tools on mental health in humanitarian contexts, including on the integration of psychosocial support in the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence intervention packages. Regional offices will adapt this guidance to their contexts and roll it out in their countries.

Climate change is one of the most significant, emerging, long-term issues affecting sustainable development. The global and regional interventions will focus on studying the impact of climate change on achieving the three transformative results. The East and Southern Africa Regional Office, as the UNFPA champion on climate change, will lead the development of technical guidance on climate change adaptation and resilience to inform UNFPA programmatic work in the years to come. UNFPA will establish a hub of experts on climate change to guide the development of its climate change strategy.

Understanding the impact of emerging demographic issues, such as population ageing and low fertility, on health care, social security systems and labour markets is becoming a priority in many countries in the Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions. The regional and global interventions will link the integration of these emerging issues into national policies through the UNFPA Global Virtual Hub on Ageing and Low Fertility, established in 2019 and consisting of UNFPA global, regional and country experts.

In their technical and advisory support to countries, UNFPA global and regional interventions will include issues on innovative financing, resilient health systems, midwifery and supply chains in order to increase use of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights services, including family planning, to the last mile.

The global and regional interventions will widen its multi-sectoral partnerships in order to integrate adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and youth leadership and participation in other sectoral programmes, and it will expand financing for this critical area of work. In particular, UNFPA is currently exploring a potential scoping collaboration and partnership with the World Bank's Africa human capital plan, linking to UNFPA flagship programmes, such as the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) and joint programmes on child marriage and female genital mutilation.

The regional interventions will integrate new approaches by building on successful initiatives of 2018-2019. The West and Central Africa regional office will integrate the SWEDD programming approach to scale up successful initiatives, such as the Emerging FASS project in Senegal and safe spaces for survivors of gender-based violence in Niger to other countries of the region. The Arab States regional office will continue to develop a "Girls' Impact Bond" to explore alternative financing models with public-private partnerships, and it will increase youth access to sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights by building on the success of the outcomes of the two Arab Youth Forums to provide youth with skills and knowledge.

To help transform national data systems, UNFPA global and regional interventions will build on georeferencing of census data within the 2020 census round. The global interventions will use the Population Data Thematic Fund as the architecture for leveraging the adoption of new technical innovations for the 2020 round of censuses.

The global and regional interventions will also continue to build on strategic partnerships. They will promote South-South cooperation as an important modality of international collaboration and a programming strategy toward sustainable development for all. The focus will be on working with national partners to identify well-established domestic institutions in the areas of maternal health, gender-based violence, and population data to mobilize domestic financing in middle-income countries.

The global and regional interventions will continue to advance results-based management culture by shifting its focus from measuring and reporting results to accountability, learning and adaptive management. This shift will be done by rolling out the RBM Seal, a corporate flagship initiative, and by exploring new ways of building RBM capacity beyond traditional training sessions. Through the global and regional interventions, results-based management will continue to be mainstreamed in guidance, tools and country programmes.

In seeking better coordination, coherence, accountability and transparency within the United Nations development system, the interventions will focus on strengthening the implementation of United Nations reforms in the broader context of the Decade of Action. The interventions will advance the system's repositioning at country level to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the UNFPA three transformative results.

To better respond to growing needs, the global and regional interventions will build capacity and provide technical advisory support to countries rolling out the UNSDCF. They will strengthen UNFPA positioning in efforts to implement the management accountability framework in the new generation of country teams and the resident coordinator system as a whole. UNFPA will also provide guidance to regional offices in operationalizing the new regional collaborative platforms and knowledge management hubs, including conducting consultations with UNFPA country and regional offices to generate ideas for change and inform corporate policymaking within the United Nations development system reform agenda.

Implementation of the midterm review adjustment

The midterm review adjustments of the global and regional interventions that have budgetary implications have been linked directly to the revision of required resources. Overall, the budget of the global and regional interventions for 2018-2021 has been revised from \$152.5 million to \$162.7 million, reflecting a 6.6 per cent increase. The 2020 and 2021 indicative allocations by strategic plan outcome and organizational effectiveness and efficiency outputs are presented in the table 1 below.

Table 1.
Indicative regular resources allocation in 2020 and 2021 for UNFPA global and regional interventions, by outcomes and organizational effectiveness and efficiency outputs

In millions of United States dollars

UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021, outcomes and outputs	2020	2021	Total
Outcome 1 - Integrated sexual and reproductive health services	15.4	15.5	30.9
Outcome 2 - Youth empowerment	5.3	5.2	10.5
Outcome 3 - Gender equality and women's empowerment	6.2	6.3	12.5
Outcome 4 - Population data	11.5	11.5	23.0
OEE 1 - Improved programming for results	3.4	3.2	6.4
OEE 2 - Optimized management of resources	0.7	0.8	1.5
OEE 3 - Increased contribution to United Nations system-wide results, coordination and coherence	0.1	0.1	0.2
OEE 4 - Improved communication for impact, resource mobilization and partnerships	0.9	0.9	1.8
Total	43.5	43.5	87.0