

Annex 3: Implementation of global and regional interventions, 2021

Implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

This annex presents the performance of UNFPA global and regional interventions in 2021. The annex also illustrates the critical role played by global and regional interventions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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A. Introduction

Global and regional interventions (GRIs) play a catalytic role in the achievement of results of the UNFPA strategic plan 2018-2021, including the three transformative results. 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.

As a programmatic instrument of the strategic plan, the global and regional interventions are implemented through the following six main strategies: (i) strengthening advocacy and intergovernmental policy dialogue, (ii) building and expanding partnerships, including interagency collaboration, (iii) enhancing the capacity of the country and regional offices, partners and stakeholders and promoting the dissemination of knowledge, (iv) delivering technical and programmatic advisory support to countries, (v) promoting international norms and standards, and (vi) strengthening humanitarian response and preparedness.

The global interventions are implemented by headquarter units, the regional interventions are implemented by the regional offices for Arab States (ASRO), Asia Pacific (APRO), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECARO), Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO), Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRO), and Western and Central Africa (WCARO).

The global and regional interventions achieved a strong overall performance during 2021. Eighty five per cent of targets set across the six regional action plans and 79 per cent for the global action plans were achieved with the progress of 90 per cent and above.

In its decision 2017/24, the Executive Board requested UNFPA to report on the implementation of, and funds spent on, global and regional interventions in the annual report of the Executive Director.

B. Overall performance of the global and regional interventions

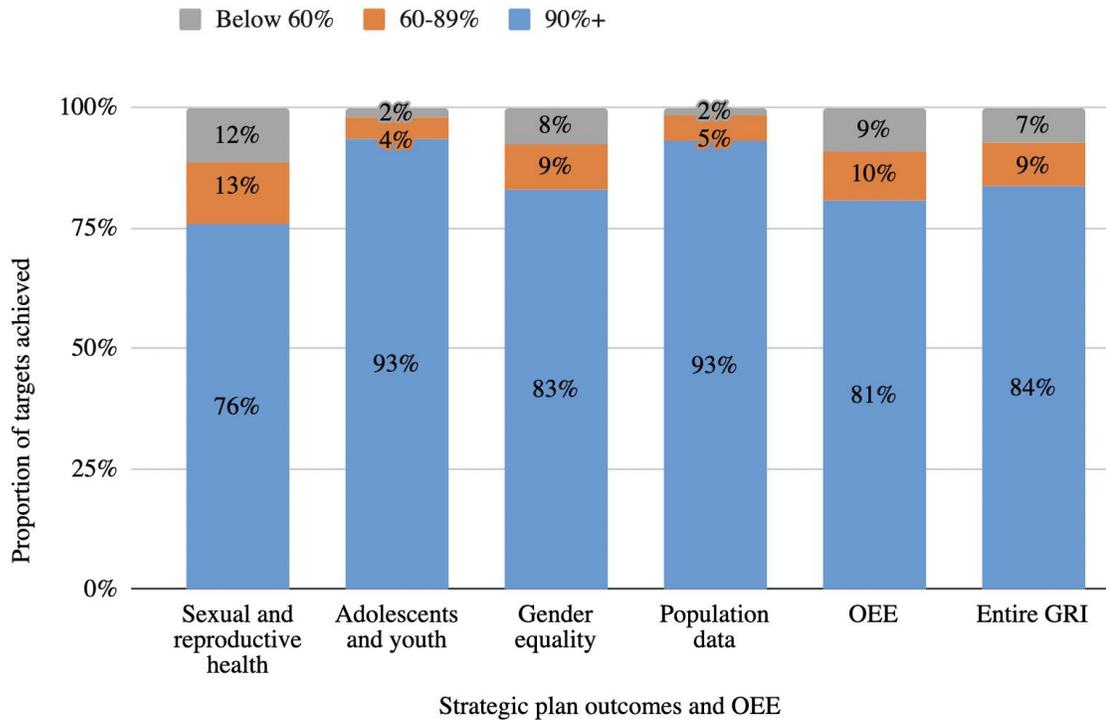
The global and regional interventions continued to demonstrate a strong performance in 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, with 85 per cent of the output indicator targets for the six regional action plans, and 79 per cent for the global action plans were fully achieved¹.

As Figure (1) shows, 84 per cent of the overall GRI indicator targets were fully achieved. The sexual and reproductive health outcome posted a relatively lower performance, with 76 per cent of the output indicator

¹ A progress of 90 percent and above is considered as fully achieved.

targets fully achieved, compared to the adolescent and youth and population data outcomes, where 93 per cent of the targets were fully achieved.

Figure 1. Percent of the GRIs output indicator targets achieved in 2021, by Strategic plan outcomes and OEE



C. Achievement highlights

This section provides examples of achievement by the global and regional interventions in contributing to the achievement of the strategic plan 2018-2021 results during 2021. The section is organised by the strategic plan outcomes.

Every woman, adolescent and youth has utilised integrated sexual and reproductive health services (Outcome 1)

In contributing to the Strategic plan 2018-2021 achievement under outcome 1, the GRIs focused on promoting increased utilization of integrated sexual and reproductive health services and ensuring that no one was left behind and that the most vulnerable populations have access to at least the basic services. Seventy-six per cent of the GRIs targets achieved progress of 90 per cent and above (figure 1).



23 country-specific investment cases developed and disseminated, with regional interventions support



The first Arab regional health friendly budgeting strategy launched, together with League of Arab States and World Health Organization partners



101,474 midwives, nurses and midwifery educators reached through a range of e-learning modules



22 technical guidance, tools and peer-reviewed papers to support countries in addressing inequities in access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights developed and disseminated



15 countries in Asia and the Pacific supported in responding to 40 emergencies including COVID-19

Figure 2. Highlights of 2021 achievement by the GRIs on Strategic plan 2018-2021, Outcome 1

The GRIs created a conducive environment for an **increased prioritization of sexual and reproductive health at the country and regional levels**. Bringing technical guidance, tools, and knowledge products to regional and country-level policy and advocacy and capacity-strengthening work, global and regional interventions worked in tandem to increase interest in domestic resource investment toward sexual and reproductive health. The GRIs supported the development and dissemination of 23 country-specific investment cases in 2021 (10 in WCARO; 5 in ESARO; 4 in LACRO; 2 in EECARO; 1 in APRO; 1 in ASRO). In the Arab region, the interventions developed the first Arab regional health friendly budgeting strategy, together with League of Arab States and World Health Organization partners.

The GRIs helped accelerate progress towards the achievement of universal comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights coverage. Seven countries in East and Southern Africa and 7 countries in Asia and the Pacific completed assessments for situating comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights coverage within the country-specific Universal Health Coverage benefit packages.

The GRIs promoted advancing the Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer. For instance, jointly with Friends of Cancer Patients in the United Arab Emirates, UNFPA-ASRO held the second regional cervical cancer forum, which concluded with the Sharjah Declaration on Cervical Cancer (2nd edition 2021): Accelerating Action on HPV and Cervical Cancer. EECARO organized its first regional cervical cancer prevention forum in 2021 and launched and operationalized a Regional Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention - a multicountry, multisectoral cooperation framework to help end cervical cancer.

The GRIs contributed to adolescent pregnancy prevention through supporting policy advocacy. For instance, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the National Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Adolescent Pregnancies in Argentina, supported by UNFPA-LACRO and the country office from the beginning, significantly contributed to reducing adolescent fertility rate (from 53.1 in 2017 to 30.3 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 in 2020).

With the GRIs support, UNFPA promoted respectful maternity care in a concerted manner across global, regional and country levels. For instance, ESARO worked with the Southern African Development Community to mainstream respectful maternity care in their regional guidance. To complement this effort, countries in the region generated evidence on the quality of care in maternity settings for mainstreaming respectful maternity care in national policies and strategies.

The GRIs **promoted access to sexual and reproductive health services for those furthest behind, including people with disabilities and key populations**. UNFPA-APRO in partnership with the Burnet Institute in Australia mapped sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights inequities in 18 Asia-Pacific countries, identifying populations left behind. Recommendations from the assessment informed the Asian Population Development Association report in regards to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence during COVID-19. ASRO conducted a regional assessment of sexual and reproductive health-related needs and challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Sudan.

With the high engagement of the global interventions, the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2021. With ESARO's support, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched a Scorecard that serves as a high-level accountability tool to track the region's progress in achieving the strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights in the SADC region, 2019-2030.

With WCARO and ESARO support, UNFPA jointly with UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNESCO and UN Women launched a new initiative, Education Plus, at the 2021 Generation Equality Forum in Paris, France, to

accelerate action and investments to ensure secondary education for all young people. The initiative aims to help tackle the urgency of effectively addressing the increasing rates of HIV among adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa, further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, Sierra Leone, Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, and Lesotho signed on to champion the initiative with a wide range of commitments.

The GRIs were also instrumental in **positioning the importance of investing in the health workforce, including the midwives**. At the global level, the State of the world's midwifery report 2021 produced with the GRIs support helped raise awareness and guide collective efforts in addressing the shortage in professional midwifery around the globe.

Interventions in WCARO, ESARO, LACRO, APRO and ASRO developed virtual trainings for midwives and midwifery educators to further help close the capacity gaps; at least 101,474 midwives and nurses were reached via different e-learning modules in these regions in 2021. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 38 professional midwives from 9 countries completed an advocacy course, following which the midwives in Uruguay successfully advocated for their country to launch its first census of professional midwives, with support from UNFPA. In Asia and the Pacific, APRO developed and administered a perinatal mental health course, helping to put perinatal mental health "on the map" as a neglected and critical issue.

The GRIs helped strengthen **the women and girls' access to family planning**. With the policy advocacy and technical support from ESARO, 15 countries integrated a minimum of five generic contraceptives and/or three lifesaving medicines into the countries' essential medicines list and improved distribution of contraceptives to the last mile. ASRO established two new partnerships in 2021 - a tripartite partnership with EECARO and the European Society for Contraception and a partnership with the Arab Coalition for Adolescent Health and Medicine, to help address access to contraceptives among adolescents.

The GRIs contributed to countries' efforts to ensure a steady supply of sexual and reproductive health commodities and an improved access to medical support, to the last mile. EECARO, in partnership with John Snow, Inc., developed a policy brief, Strong supply chains - a key investment for choice, health and human rights, which highlighted the importance of sustainable and resilient public health supply chains and last mile assurance. With LACRO's support, Brazil provided telemedicine access in five of its poorest municipalities, making it possible for women who had never consulted a gynecologist or used a contraceptive method before to access medical assistance and counseling.

The GRIs took effective measures and promoted adaptations to **help ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian settings, including the COVID-19 pandemic**. Adapting to the COVID-19 context, the interventions supported the development of alternative solutions such as remote care, online advocacy platforms and training facilities. For example, staff from 165 countries, regional entities and global institutions were trained to implement Minimum Initial Service Package at the onset of crisis, through a combination of in-person, distance blended coursework, and via online learning platforms, and 38 global academic health institutions and academic partners were trained as master trainers.

The interventions applied creative and resilient strategies to maintain programming during COVID-19. In Latin America and the Caribbean, with the regional office support, a virtual course on emergency obstetric care in 2021 reached a total of 658 participants from 19 countries in the region, with 285 participants getting certified. The GRIs helped ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services provision through evidence provision. For instance, ESARO established a regional joint United Nations mechanism to track utilisation of sexual and reproductive health services during the pandemic. EECARO, in partnership with Ghent University, conducted large scale surveys to assess the impact of COVID-19, particularly on populations left furthest behind.

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

In 2021, the global and regional interventions contributed to the empowerment of young people to access sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, integration of adolescent and youth needs and rights into national policies and programmes, and promotion of young people’s participation and representation in development, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. Ninety-three per cent of GRIs targets were fully achieved, contributing positively to the strong achievement in this outcome.

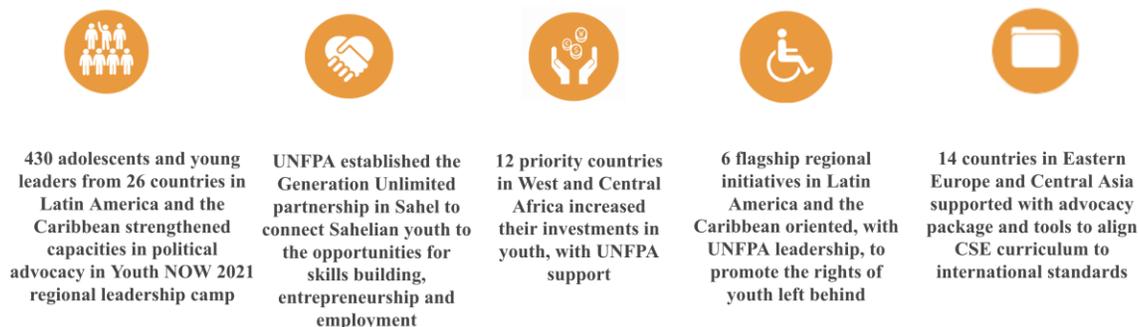


Figure 3. Highlights of 2021 achievement by the GRIs on Strategic plan 2018-2021, Outcome 2

The GRIs fostered an **improved environment for adolescents and young people to know their rights, and to have knowledge and skills for making informed decisions regarding their health and futures.** The global interventions supported the development and launch in 2021 of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines on working with and for young people in humanitarian and protracted crises. The first training based on the guidelines was rolled out in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. In the Sahel, UNFPA established the Generation Unlimited partnership to connect Sahelian youth to the opportunities for skills building, entrepreneurship and employment.

Both global and regional interventions led and supported regional and country assessments of availability, quality and accessibility of adolescent and youth-friendly health services, generated advocacy briefs, developed technical guidance and supported the development and rollout of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programmes. WCARO, LACRO and ESARO developed and launched technical guidances on out-of-school CSE. With WCARO support, 90,000 adolescents and young people in Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad benefited from quality out-of-school CSE. With EECARO support, 14 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia launched out-of-school CSE programmes that are aligned to international standards. LACRO developed a regional advocacy strategy, Comprehensive sexuality education: a path to promote rights, health and the prevention of gender-based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2021.

The interventions responded to the COVID-19 realities with adapted solutions for maintaining CSE. At a critical time of school closures and mobility restrictions, UNFPA ESARO jointly with UNESCO supported the development of a regional online CSE course, which reached 9,000 CSE facilitators and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights service providers. APRO and ESARO adapted and disseminated 24 animated AMAZE sexuality education videos. ESARO developed the Tuneme App, currently implemented in eight countries in the region, which has reached more than 4 million young users with information on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

The GRIs promoted **representation of adolescent and youth needs and rights in national policies and programmes, especially for those furthest behind.** WCARO supported 12 priority countries in West and Central Africa to increase their investment in youth through national action plans. In the framework of Leaving no one behind regional strategy, LACRO supported 40 adolescents and youth with disabilities from 15 countries in the region to complete a regional leadership and empowerment course, and promoted statistical visibility of afro-descendants in census design. ESARO supported the development of the SADC

Youth Empowerment Policy Framework as mandated by the 16 Ministers of Youth in the region. ESARO, in partnership with the South African Medical Research Council, developed the region’s first of its kind in and out of school CSE curriculum with adaptations for all disability types.

The GRIs promoted integration of menstrual health into sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes, especially for vulnerable populations, including adolescent girls and young people. ESARO, WCARO, and the African Coalition for Menstrual Health Management, under the auspices of the Safeguard Young People programme, convened the second African Symposium on Menstrual Health, since its inauguration in 2018. The virtual symposium brought together 717 participants from 75 countries and culminated in the renewed Africa Coalition Call to Action for Menstrual Health - Time to Act! Period!, promoting collective action to safeguard health and reproductive rights for all people who menstruate in Africa.

In partnership with youth-led organizations and other United Nations entities, the GRIs **contributed to an increased awareness of youth agency and leadership and the participation of youth in the advancement of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, the UN Youth2030 Strategy and the UNFPA Adolescent and Youth Strategy implementation.** The global interventions supported the development of the UNFPA Adolescent and Youth Strategy operational guidance, including a dedicated module on youth, peace and security. LACRO collaborated with Ashanti Peru to strengthen a regional platform of 180 young afro-descendant leaders. ESARO implemented #YouthPowerHub, a platform of 168 youth-led organizations from 20 countries working to enable youth to find sexual and reproductive health resources, identify ICPD25 voluntary commitments, and co-create actions around those. This was achieved in partnership with Youth in Action, African Youth and Adolescents Network, the Global Network of Young people living with HIV/AIDS and the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Africa Trust, as well as other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations.

The empowerment of all women and girls, and reproductive rights are advanced in development and humanitarian settings (Outcome 3)

In contributing to the Strategic plan 2018-2021 achievements under outcome 3, the GRIs were instrumental in improving women’s and girls’ health and choices through legal and policy reforms that focus on women’s empowerment and strengthening mechanisms for gender-based violence prevention and response, and elimination of harmful practices. For this outcome, 83 per cent of the GRIs targets were fully achieved (figure 1).

Figure 4.



Highlights of 2021 achievement by the GRIs on Strategic plan 2018-2021, Outcome 3

The interventions played an important role in supporting **gender-responsive legislation, policy, and normative frameworks.** With the GRIs support, UNFPA consolidated two submissions to the United Nations Human Rights Council to inform the normative framework on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights: (a) The right to sexual and reproductive health – challenges and possibilities during

COVID-19; and (b) CEDAW's General recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls.

With the GRIs support, UNFPA prioritized evidence collection to support achieving greater gender justice. For instance, ASRO played a leading role in the development and launch in 2021 of Situational analysis of women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa and Arab States region, with other United Nations agencies. APRO carried out a review of regional laws and policies related to mental health and sterilization, helping to promote in the region a supportive and safe legal and policy environment for women with psychosocial disabilities.

UNFPA strengthened the engagement of its country offices in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism through the GRIs. In furtherance of this, ESARO, APRO, and the UNFPA Geneva Representation Office in 2020/2021 carried out trainings for country offices to strengthen the engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process. As a result, during the third cycle of the periodic review, the level of attention to previously neglected sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights issues increased.

The GRIs supported countries to **address discriminatory gender and sociocultural norms**. In Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Georgia 1800 men learned effective fatherhood skills through the 19 Father schools established through a UNFPA-EECARO and UNWomen partnership. With support from the Austrian Development Agency, EECARO also trained 21 private sector companies in a number of countries to implement family friendly workplaces. With technical guidance by LACRO and pooled funds from the GRIs, Summit Foundation and the Spotlight Initiative, 22 innovative youth-led projects to prevent gender-based violence and the transformation of gender norms were supported in 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. With WCARO support, 10 countries trained trainers to strengthen national programmes on social norms change, accelerate the abandonment of harmful practices and bring an end to violence against women and girls.

The interventions leveraged intergovernmental process to promote the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices. For example, LACRO supported the Organization of American States in the establishment of a new recommendation on sexual violence, through the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Belem do Pará convention. It also launched in 2021 a Hemispheric report on child, early and child marriages and unions forced in the states parties to the convention.

The GRIs helped **strengthen multisectoral capacity to prevent and address gender-based violence and contributed to improved gender-based violence coordination in humanitarian contexts**. Through the global interventions, UNFPA capacitated 75 country and regional offices to implement programmes that prevent and mitigate gender-based violence, and improve the quality of and survivors' access to multi-sector gender-based violence services. It also supported gender-based violence response and prevention programmes in over 134 countries and territories through 110 offices, including in the set up of national systems to collect data on the prevalence of intimate partner violence, and the proliferation of multi-sectoral administrative data systems globally.

Complementing the global effort, regional interventions in 22 countries in East and Southern Africa and 9 in West and Central Africa rolled out intervention models or strategies that empower marginalized and excluded groups to exercise their reproductive rights, and be protected from gender-based violence and harmful practices. The interventions also contributed to the improved gender-based violence programming and an increased number of countries that have a functioning inter-agency gender-based violence coordination mechanism in humanitarian contexts. For instance, ASRO piloted the integration of cash-based interventions within the region's humanitarian gender-based violence programmes. Most of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that the cash assistance significantly mitigated their immediate exposure to gender-based violence incidents and enabled them to access response services.

In 2021, with APRO's support, as part of its ongoing kNowVAWdata initiative with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which concerns data on violence against women, five new countries conducted and analysed prevalence data on violence against women. Twenty-two country offices in the region were



126 countries supported to collect and report on UNFPA priority Sustainable Development Goals and ICPD indicators



21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean supported to generate rapid population appraisal, when affected by humanitarian crises



A Decade of Demographic Resilience and Sofia Alliance, bringing together 46 countries, was launched by UNFPA and the Government of Bulgaria



More than 52 countries received targeted census support globally

capacitated using a comprehensive gender-based violence and mental health and psychosocial support training package. In addition, given the emerging life-saving role of hotlines as a crucial entry point to support gender-based violence survivors during COVID-19, APRO developed technical guidelines for establishing hotlines for survivors and a capacity building tool.

The GRIs helped enable a **conducive environment for a strengthened response to eliminate harmful practices, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and son preference**, through mobilized and expanded partnerships, strengthened intergovernmental policy dialogue, and technical advisory and advocacy support of the GRIs. The global interventions continued efforts to convene partners, including faith actors. As a part of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Religion in 2021 UNFPA organized the first thematic discussion with the United Nations Multi-faith Advisory Council, fostering collaboration between the United Nations and faith-based organizations to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

With LACRO's support with data and evidence from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala, a comprehensive intervention model to prevent and respond to the Child Marriage and Early Unions was developed within the framework of the programme Challenging harmful practices against girls and adolescents, with financing from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.

ESARO developed the Youth Innovation Incubator on Female Genital Mutilation, implemented through the GRIs together with partners, which supports teams of young entrepreneurs in piloting innovative ideas to end the practice. Country roadmaps on integrated gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services were developed for 14 countries, as part of UNFPA ESARO's joint training with the World Health Organization. The regional office also supported 5 countries to develop, launch and implement the costed inter-ministerial action plan on cross border female genital mutilation.

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

The GRIs enabled UNFPA to continue supporting the production and use of high quality and disaggregated population data, and promoting the use of such data for formulation and implementation of policies reflecting the principles of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and Agenda 2030. The interventions included using tools such as geospatial mapping and small area estimates to modernize census, and the national level tracking of Sustainable Development Goals. For this outcome, 93 per cent of the GRIs targets were fully achieved (figure 1).

Figure 5. Highlights of 2021 achievement by the GRIs on Strategic plan 2018-2021, Outcome 4

The GRIs helped **strengthen the use of national and regional data systems to map inequalities and**

advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the ICPD commitments. Through the global interventions, UNFPA leveraged intergovernmental and interagency coordination processes to integrate the ICPD agenda into the Sustainable Development Goals implementation efforts. 129 countries were supported to collect and report on UNFPA priority Sustainable Development Goals and the ICPD indicators, and 90 countries received country-specific census and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics technical assistance globally.

The regional interventions complemented the global level work. In the Arab States, the Composite Index for the International Conference on Population and Development-based Sustainable Development Goals dimensions called “Population Development Composite Index-PDCI” was developed and launched by ASRO. The index, endorsed by the League of Arab States national statistics offices, will accelerate a people-centered approach to Sustainable Development Goals implementation in the Arab region ensuring that population issues are at the center of the development agenda 2030.

The GRIs **improved utilization of population data to inform public policy design and implementation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.** For instance, with LACRO technical support, 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean started using the Montevideo Consensus and its implementation guidelines as a reference for policy design and implementation in 2021. EECARO together with the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria launched a Decade of Demographic Resilience as well as the Sofia Alliance, a Member States-led policy and practice community facilitated by UNFPA.

The GRIs supported the **mainstreaming of demographic intelligence to improve socio-economic policies, programmes and advocacy.** Through its global interventions, UNFPA supported the integration of ICPD perspectives into outcome documents of global and regional intergovernmental processes, including in the General Assembly, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and a number of United Nations Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies. UNFPA also advocated with Member States for the inclusion of universal health coverage, gender, data, leaving no one behind and youth perspectives as well as perspectives of people of African descent, indigenous people and people living with disabilities, in the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries preparatory process and the High-level Meeting on AIDS at the UN Headquarters, in New York.

The GRIs helped strengthen interest in implementing the demographic dividend agenda and the Agenda 2030 in the Sahel, owing to the WCARO’s evidence-driven advocacy at the 2021 Bamako Forum. ESARO promoted advanced diagnostic techniques for demographic dividend monitoring using the National Transfer Account and assessed the impact of COVID-19 on the prospects for a demographic dividend in the region. APRO supported the regional platform for National Transfer Account practitioners to advocate, raise awareness and share lessons learned on its use for policy advancement.

The GRIs promoted the placing of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and gender equality on the table at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. ESARO enabled the establishment of a Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change, which helped young people from around the globe to drive advocacy on the integration of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights into national climate policies and to raise their voices at the conference.

The GRIs generated evidence and made concrete recommendations for advancing gender equality during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the post-pandemic era. In ESARO, UNFPA and UN Women launched a regional report on the Impact of COVID-19 on gender equality and women’s empowerment in East and Southern Africa, based on a 28-country study.

The GRIs also worked to strengthen the capacities of partners and country offices in the census, geospatial mapping, data for policy engagement, low fertility and ageing. ASRO and WCARO helped countries in the regions to integrate the geographic information system in censuses. LACRO, together with partners, promoted an increased statistical visibility of afro-descendants and other most left behind groups. With ESARO’s support, for the first time in over 15 years of insecurity, South Sudan carried out a population

census by applying a hybrid census methodology using high-resolution satellite imagery and data from representative population survey to generate demographic indicators.

EECARO enabled several countries in the region to deploy innovative methodologies such as the Gender and Generations Survey and the development of the Active Ageing Index to support policy formulations to address the demographic challenges in the region. As part of the Joint Programme on Ageing, EECARO also provided technical support to country offices and the United Nations country teams in protecting the rights and dignity of older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency (OEE)

In 2021, global and regional interventions played an instrumental role in strengthening organizational effectiveness and efficiency. They supported improving UNFPA's programming for results, strengthened partnerships and helped bolster the organization's resource mobilization efforts. Eighty-one per cent of the organization effectiveness and efficiency GRIs targets were fully achieved (figure 1).



Figure 6. Highlights of 2021 achievement by the GRIs on Strategic plan 2018-2021, OEE

The GRIs enabled UNFPA to **strengthen programming for results and innovation in the organization**. The global interventions improved results-based management at UNFPA by implementing a dedicated results-based management certification initiative, 'RBM Seal', introducing an innovative adaptive management model, and strengthening staff capacities to integrate results-based management principles into the country-level results planning. In 2021, the UNFPA Innovation Fund supported 31 innovation projects at country and regional levels through investments in expertise and technology, to empower innovations by women for women and accelerate the achievement of the three transformative results. To further reimagine the delivery of its programmes and spearhead innovative solutions to reach its three transformative results, in 2021 UNFPA re-designed the existing Innovation Fund and transformed it into multi-partner multi-year UNFPA Accelerator Fund 'Equalizer'.

Regional interventions complemented the global ones in strengthening the quality and resilience of programming at the country level. For instance, APRO and LACRO supported the development of country programme documents in line with UNFPA standards, quality assured Common Country Analyses and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as part of dedicated regional inter-agency mechanisms, and strengthened country capacities to conduct UNDAF/UNSDCF and country programme evaluations. With the GRIs support, UNFPA also strengthened the capacities of country offices in implementing the minimum preparedness actions to further programme effectiveness should emergencies strike.

With the support of the GRI funds, UNFPA **built and expanded partnerships, including interagency**

collaboration, to advance the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. UNFPA actively engaged in the UN Sustainable Development Group to enable increased coherence of the United Nations development activities. Building on system-wide efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Decade of Action, UNFPA enhanced support to countries to integrate the three transformative results, the voluntary commitments made in the context of ICPD25 and the ICPD Agenda, in the Voluntary National Reviews of the 2021 round.

The global interventions developed and disseminated the first ever UNFPA engagement strategy with civil society organizations (CSOs) and parliamentarians (2022-2025), which will guide corporate engagement with civil society networks, parliamentarians and allies to accelerate the achievement of the transformative results in alignment with the new strategic plan, 2022-2025. With the GRIs support, UNFPA made significant contributions to the UN system-wide South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) strategy and solutions platform, the 'South-South Galaxy.' With the GRIs support, also, 27 member states of the Global South met in an inter-ministerial conference and issued an outcome document reiterating the importance of achieving the ICPD Programme of Action through SSTC.

All regional interventions continued to work in diverse regional inter-agency fora and mechanisms to advance the ICPD and Agenda 2030 goals, taking into account regional contexts. For instance, the focus of interagency work in LACRO was on populations left behind, which led to the establishment of the Latin America and the Caribbean Afro-descendant Parliamentary Group and the agreements with the Latin American Parliament and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the GRIs provided support to country offices in **enhancing communication, strengthening partnerships, and meeting their resource mobilisation targets.** The interventions worked in tandem to strengthen the visibility of UNFPA work, including through improved communication of UNFPA results over social media, in emergencies, and by means of new and expanded partnerships. With APRO and LACRO support, in 2021 both regions exceeded their already ambitious resource mobilization targets. APRO mobilized the highest amount of non-core funds in a single calendar year ever (USD 135 million) and increased the number of private-sector partnerships (to 23), leading to a higher volume of financial and in-kind contributions valued at approximately USD 4 million.

D. Challenges and lessons learned

In 2021, performance of global and regional interventions continued to be affected by numerous challenges, especially those presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 infection prevention measures and lockdowns presented setbacks to GRIs 'traditional work modalities, national health systems faced duress, and reproductive morbidities lost attention as priorities of governments and partners shifted away from sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Challenges faced by the interventions in 2021 ranged from and included: high technical demands and the need for real-time data and evidence necessary to secure governments and partners 'attention to prioritize sexual and reproductive health needs; traditional guidance, capacity building and advocacy solutions for programmatic work remained not applicable in many restricted travel contexts; and effective response to the complex needs of United Nations country teams through global inter-agency coordination processes became more difficult.

The challenges notwithstanding, through adaptations, the GRIs were able to counter many of the setbacks posed by the turbulent context: they leaned into evidence provision to reinforce the primacy of sexual and reproductive health at a time of shifting priorities at national and intergovernmental fora, often virtually, and across many new platforms; generated timely analyses including on the impact of COVID-19, and supported context-specific advocacy solutions; shifted to digital and e-learning approaches to continue the strengthening of national capacities to deliver quality sexual and reproductive health services; introduced and scaled virtual collaboration modalities wherever possible, including through South-South and triangular

cooperation; invested more in preparedness; adapted work modalities to the realities of COVID-19 to foster greater collaboration to respond to the needs of countries; and leveraged collective strengths working closely with other agencies and partners to amplify voices of the left behind groups.

In the context of global and regional interventions, UNFPA also learned the importance of continuous investment in strategic partnerships and resource mobilization to better respond to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights needs, especially in changing and crises contexts. The continuing virtual mode of work since March 2020 in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for many UNFPA offices presented an opportunity to scale adaptations and pave a new way for forging new virtual partnerships, including with academia and professional societies, the private sector and sexual and reproductive health activists.
