

A woman with her back to the camera, wearing a bright yellow shirt, carries a baby on her back. The baby is wearing a yellow headband and a patterned shirt. The background is a blurred crowd of people in an outdoor setting.

ICPD25 ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

THE MARCH CONTINUES

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Cairo to Nairobi: Securing Rights, Changing Lives

The ICPD25 Nairobi Summit in 2019 was an exceptional moment to recalibrate and re-energize strides towards prosperity and dignity for all. We marked 25 years since the endorsement of the ICPD Programme of Action in Cairo in 1994 which emphasized the fundamental role of women's interests in population matters, giving prominence to reproductive health and the empowerment of women. This first anniversary of the historic Summit is an appraisal of the progress made in sustaining the vitality and momentum witnessed a year ago.

Nairobi was rich in perceptions, persuasions and passions. Our convictions were diverse and our approaches unlimited. We acknowledged that our shared humanity is rooted in rights and freedoms that we must all commit to protect and practice. The Summit bestowed on us the onus to collectively translate the aspirations of Cairo into a lived reality for posterity. Unanimously, across the 172 countries and territories that converged in the Kenyan capital, we committed to make development human-centered and transformative.

The resolve that resonated after the Nairobi Summit has been severely tested by the Covid-19 pandemic, whose scope and magnitude is unprecedented. The level of morbidity and mortality experienced has compelled global and national gravitation towards new priorities and methods that imperil commitments made during the Nairobi Summit. The pandemic has stifled uptake of sexual and reproductive health services, and precipitated increased vulnerability to protection risks in Kenya, like the rest of the world. Women and girls, ageing populations, and persons with disabilities continue to experience its amplified impacts. Our resolve to advance human progress on the basis of rights and inclusivity remains steadfast despite this ordeal whose end is unpredictable. Results achieved in the last one year, as articulated in this snapshot publication,

give us the assurance that the pandemic has presented an opportunity for innovative programming. We have been able to accelerate halting of preventable maternal deaths and gender-based violence and harmful practices, and continue to shrink the unmet need for family planning including in fragile and humanitarian settings. We are confident and excited about the tremendous growth in knowledge among our young people to make informed choices about their bodily integrity and future.

Kenya's Commitments during the Nairobi Summit stood out as demonstration of a people centred and pragmatic development vision. The 17 Commitments that the country submitted encompassed all facets of national life, collective community aspirations, and individual interests. We applaud the illustrious leadership of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for the recognition and affirmation of investing in people as the ultimate development panacea. Working in collaboration with our invaluable partners, UNFPA will continue to offer our unreserved support to the Government and the people of Kenya towards the realization of the Commitments.

Building back better requires that we showcase our capacity for resilience and adaptation. The new normal should find definitive prominence in our capacity to mobilize all segments of society in efforts towards fulfilment of the ICPD POA. We shall leverage technology, demographic dividends and strategic partnership to advance holistic human development. A fresh optimism and impetus drives our singular purpose as we commence the last decade of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We confront every challenge with courage; we overcome every test with faith in our common strength.

Dr. Ademola Olajide
UNFPA Representative, Kenya.

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The Road to Nairobi

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was convened in 1994, in Cairo, Egypt, as a landmark gathering of participants from governments, UN specialized agencies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and media. The conference underscored the integral and mutually reinforcing linkages between population and development, and urged the empowerment of women, both as a highly important end in itself, and as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone. The world promised that every woman and girl would enjoy universal access to sexual and reproductive health, while recognizing the fundamental role of women's interests in population matters.

Kenya hosted the historic ICPD25 Summit in

2019, 25 years after the Cairo event. In the lead up to the event, President Uhuru Kenyatta and UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem, met at State House, Nairobi, in March 2019, where the President hailed the strong partnership between the Government of Kenya and UNFPA. President Kenyatta re-affirmed Kenya's commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action, which underscores that sexual and reproductive rights are central to sustainable development. The President noted that the issues at the heart of the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit were in line with the country's development priorities, including the focus on inclusive growth and attaining universal health coverage as a key pillar of Kenya's national development blueprint – Kenya Vision 2030. While on her visit to Kenya, Dr Natalia Kanem joined hundreds of women in the Kibera Informal Set-

tlement to mark the 2019 International Women’s Day, where she emphasized the importance of the upcoming Nairobi Summit as an opportunity for governments and leaders to commit to realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

As a precursor to the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit, leaders and advocates of an equal society gathered in Vancouver, Canada, for the Women Deliver Conference held from 3-6 June 2019, to renew global commitment to gender equality and women’s rights. At the conference, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem called for commitments to accelerate gender equality in the lead-up to the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. During the opening plenary of the conference, President Uhuru Kenyatta committed to end FGM in Kenya by 2022, a major step on the road towards Nairobi.

In November 2019, the world finally gathered at the Nairobi Summit to mark the 25th anniversary of the ICPD, under the banner of “Accelerating the Promise.” The event was co-convened by the Governments of Kenya and Denmark, and the UNFPA. The Summit brought together over 8,300 people from 172 countries and territories, the culmination of a year-long process to re-energize people everywhere in fulfilling the prom-

ises made on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the equality of women and girls

At the Summit, world leaders, youth activists, CEOs of multinational corporations, community leaders, academics, religious leaders, indigenous peoples, all embraced the power of open dialogue and exchange to reflect together on opportunities, challenges and collective actions.

The summit resulted in the Nairobi Statement, which outlines 12 forward-looking global commitments that highlight three zeros – the end to preventable maternal mortality, unmet need for contraceptives, and an end to gender-based violence and harmful practices. They spotlight urgent issues such as greater domestic and international financing, bringing young people into all decision-making that affects them, generating and making available timely quality and disaggregated data, and ensuring that sexual and reproductive health information and services reach people in crisis. As a non-binding instrument, the Statement as a whole allows different countries and other actors to pursue concerns most important to them.

International Womens Day 2019:

Dr. Natalia Kanem (Centre) Esther Passaris (Left) and Pamela Kadenyi (right) during the celebrations of the International Womens day in Kibera informal settlement hosted by Polycom Development



“I really do believe the reason so many of us have convened in Nairobi is because we recognize that advancing people’s rights, in particular, women’s rights, their choices and their well-being, is the path to prosperous and resilient societies.”

*—His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta,
President of the Republic of Kenya*

Photo: H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya during the ICPD25 summit



Kenya's commitment to progress

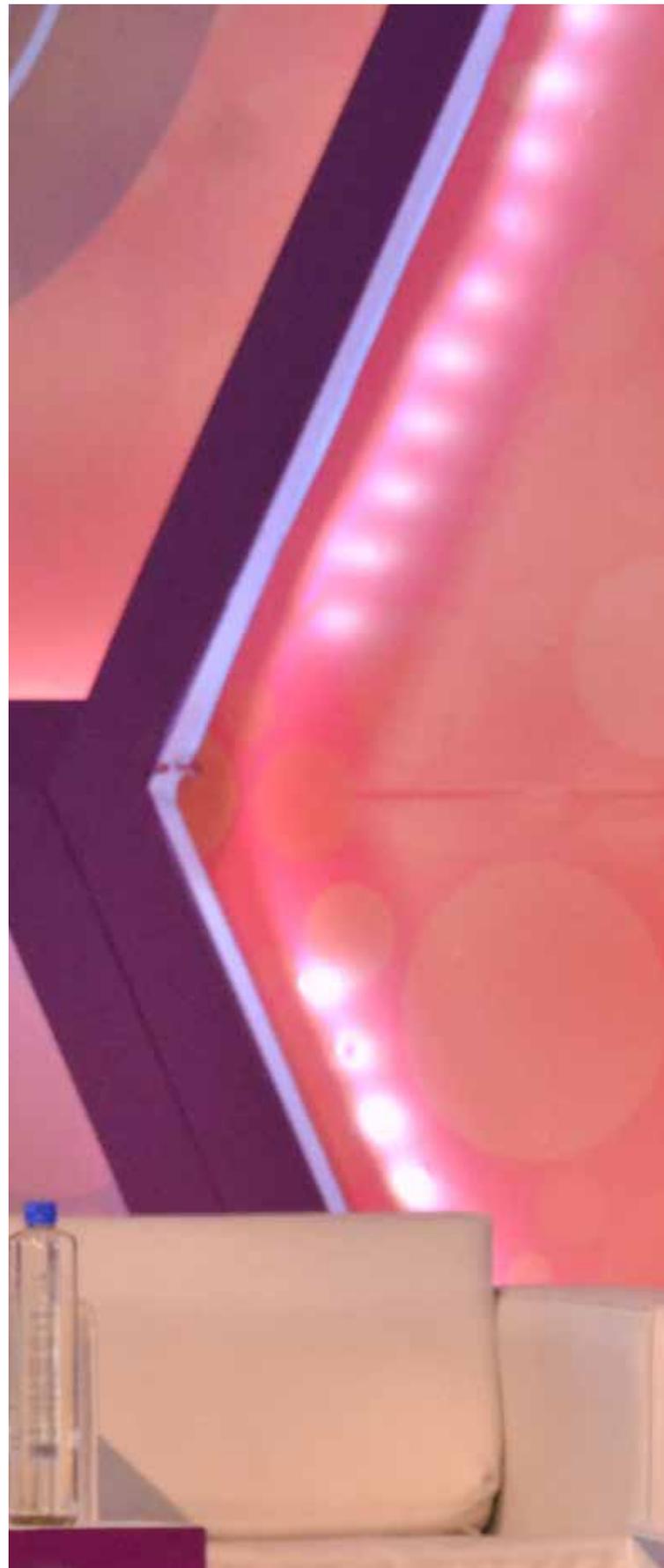
His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta unveiled 17 national commitments reassuring Kenya's dedication to full realization of sustainable human development in line with the ICPD25 global commitments.

As a country, Kenya has identified key actions to implement towards achieving these commitments, including ensuring that adolescents and youth attain the highest possible standard of health; eliminating preventable maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality; attaining universal basic education, and eliminating all forms of gender based violence, including child and forced marriages, by addressing social and cultural norms that propagate the practice while providing support to women and girls who have been affected.

The UNFPA Kenya Country Office remains committed to working in partnership with the government and people of Kenya in achieving these people centered, transformative results.

Our favourite moment from the Nairobi Summit

19-year-old Prescilla Nyamal was one of the speakers at last year's ICPD25 summit. A child marriage survivor and activist living in Kakuma refugee camp, she, together with her step-mother and step-siblings fled South Sudan during conflict in 2014. The grueling journey to escape the brutal war finally landed them at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Her powerful speech and shining moment at the global platform was one of our favourite moments of the conference.



Let's Go Beyond Zero!

It is a humbling privilege and honour for me to address you at this historic ICPD25 summit. Thank you for the decision not to leave girls like me behind. We are the generation born after Cairo and we are ready to accelerate the promise. The Summit has affirmed my faith in the power of nations to embrace the fullness of human life beyond numbers and bestow dignity on women and girls. I have been inspired by the candid discussions and bold resolve to uphold, promote and secure women's rights as human rights.

There is no posterity without women. A society that violates women and girls shall never set foot in the future that occupies their dreams. The joy of motherhood is when it happens at the right age, it is not an accident, and both the mother and baby are alive and healthy.

I return to Kakuma with renewed hope that no girl shall share childhood with her child, no woman shall suffer at childbirth, no violence against women and girls. I return to Kakuma assured that the Nairobi promise shall fulfil the desire of girls to be doctors and leaders like Dr. Natalia Kanem because the road to school is safe and they are confident about their bodies.

My commitment as a young person is to go beyond zero! Thank you all especially UNFPA and UNHCR, for seeking the voice and leadership of young people as the promise to address the three zeros is globally renewed. Your good work helped me survive child marriage.

And thank you Kenya for being a country where refugees have a voice and their choice is understood.

-Prescilla Nyamal's Speech at ICPD25 Summit.



KENYA COMMITMENTS AT THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ON ICPD25

I

Employ innovation and technology to ensure adolescents and youth attain the highest possible standard of health.

II

Eliminate preventable maternal and newborn mortality, mother to child transmission of HIV and severe morbidity such as obstetric fistula among women by 2030.

III

Progressively increase health sector financing to 15 percent of total budget, as per the Abuja declaration, by 2030

IV

Improve support to older persons, persons with disabilities, orphans, and vulnerable children by increasing the core social protection investment from 0.8 percent of Gross Domestic Product to at least 2 percent over the next 10 years.

V

Enhance integration of population, health and development programmes and projects into Medium Term Plans (MTPs) and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to ensure budgetary allocations and efficient implementation of programmes and projects by 2030.

VI

Enhance the capacity of relevant Government institutions to increase availability and accessibility to high-quality, timely and reliable population and related data at national, county, and sub-county levels, disaggregated by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location by 2030.

VII

Integrate population issues into the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes relating to sustainable development at national, county, and sub-county levels by 2030.

VIII

Harness the demographic dividend through investments in health and citizens well-being; education and skills training; employment creation and entrepreneurship; and rights, governance and empowerment of young people by 2022 as outlined in Kenya's Demographic Dividend Roadmap.

IX

Eliminate legal, policy and programmatic barriers that impede youth participation in decision making, planning and implementation of development activities at all levels by 2030.

X

Attain universal basic education by ensuring 100 percent transition of pupils, including those with special needs and disabilities, from early learning to secondary education by 2022.

XI

Improve the employability and life-skills of youths by enhancing quality and relevance of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in partnership with industries and private sector by 2030.

XII

Fully implement the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) so that learners are equipped with relevant competencies and skills from an early stage for sustainable development by 2030.

XIII

End Female Genital Mutilation by strengthening coordination in the area of legislation and policy framework, communication and advocacy, evidence generation, and support cross border collaboration on elimination of FGM by 2022.

XIV

Eliminate, by 2030, all forms of gender based violence, including child and forced marriages, by addressing social and cultural norms that propagate the practice while providing support to women and girls who have been affected.

XV

End gender and other forms of discrimination by 2030 through enforcing the anti-discrimination laws and providing adequate budgetary allocations to institutions mandated to promote gender equality, equity and empowerment of women and girls.

XVI

Ensure universal access to quality reproductive health services, including prevention and management of GBV, in humanitarian and fragile contexts by 2030.

XVII

Track and monitor the implementation of the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit commitments through the National Council for Population and Development in the State Department of Planning.

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Eliminating preventable maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality

Our support to the Government of Kenya in realizing commitments 2,3 and 16 has been focused on the integrated quality sexual and reproductive health services. Working with a variety of partners and stakeholders, UNFPA has provided technical assistance and financial support towards development of sexual and reproductive health policies, strategies and guidelines, capacity building, as well as provision of maternal and neonatal health equipment to health facilities across the country, while ensuring that the response is equitable and inclusive, so that no one is left behind. We have also engaged in strategic advocacy and policy dialogue to enhance equity and equality in sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Including and empowering persons with disabilities, and advancing sexual reproductive health and rights amongst women and girls with disabilities is important to us. Working with partners such as This-Ability Trust, UNFPA has led the development of a training curriculum for health care providers on service delivery to women with disabilities, as well as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights manual for visually impaired youth. Assessment of SRHR needs of women and girls with disabilities continues.



RESULTS ACHIEVED



Mobile app developed to digitize the Facility Consumption Data Reporting and Requesting (FCDRR) process, providing timely and accurate data on Family Planning commodities available in health facilities, and averting stock outs.



Health care workers mentored on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health



Young people receiving modern contraceptive methods



Female Sex Workers reached with integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health services



Healthcare workers in 16 counties provided with personal protective equipment (PPEs)



Health care workers equipped with EmONC skills



UNFPA-assisted scores of mothers with safe deliveries throughout the country

Towards zero preventable maternal deaths.

The Pumwani Maternity Hospital is the largest specialized health facility dedicated to maternity and newborn care in Kenya, handling an average of 120 deliveries per day. Free maternity services offered under the Linda Mama Programme, and fees waivers have made it popular with many economically disadvantaged women struggling to access quality maternal and child health.

The work of nurses and midwives at Pumwani and many other maternity care facilities has been made more complicated during the Covid-19 pandemic, with extra care required for both mothers and their new born babies. In addition to the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to healthcare workers, UNFPA, working with partners such as AMREF, NEPAD Kenya, and Moi University has supported training of 25 nurses and midwives in Uasin Gishu, Migori, Kisii, and Homabay Counties in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC), ultrasound screening for early identification of pregnancy risks, and diagnosis and referral of emergency maternity cases.

At the Oresi Health Center in Kisii county, 20 midwives have gathered for a training on basic obstetric ultrasound screening using the Lumify portable ultrasound technology from Philips. “With the training I have received today, I can be able to rescue a mother from an emergency by using a portable ultrasound machine to check for any problems or risks, starting from early in the pregnancy,” said nurse and midwife Goretti Okunya



I chose to do the teen moms of Nairobi documentary because often or not when discussing teen moms we never get to hear the voice of the teenagers but only adults view on the issue of teenage pregnancies

Cheryl Chebet - Aga Khan Academy School Nairobi, Final year student



Photo: Cheryl Chebet, 15 year old student who collaborated with UNFPA to document teenage pregnancy in Kibera



Attaining the highest possible standard of health for adolescents and youth

The empowerment of young people requires that they receive the necessary tools and resources to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Commitment 1,8,9 and 11 focus on advocating for the realization of youth rights as well as ensuring quality access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth. UNFPA has provided support to the government of Kenya and other stakeholders in implementing comprehensive sexuality education, and promoting policies for, and investment in youth friendly services in healthcare institutions.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



UNFPA has facilitated various youth to receive SRH information through digital platforms



UNFPA has facilitated job aids on adolescent and youth friendly services provided to facilities in 12 counties



UNFPA has facilitated the sensitization of Adolescent girls/Parents and Caregivers on prevention of COVID19 and associated SRHR risks



UNFPA has facilitated the provision of dignity kits in Nairobi informal settlement



UNFPA has facilitated the sensitization young people on COVID19 including SRHR related risks





Young people with an unmet need for family planning

Half of adolescent (15-19 years) pregnancies in developing regions are unintended and over half end in, often, unsafe abortion. In Kenya, 900,000 girls aged 10-19 were reported pregnant at health facilities in 2018 and 2019.

Teenage pregnancy is a fatal blow to the bodies and aspirations of adolescents. They develop psychological problems from social stigma and suffer physical and domestic violence in an attempt to meet the demands of pregnancy and childbearing. Their health is jeopardized as the developing bodies adjust to the physiological demands of childbirth.

UNFPA Representative in Kenya Dr Demola Olajide says :

There are concrete steps that can be taken at national and community level to prevent teenage pregnancies. Firstly, country commitments need to be matched with investments by the government. Kenya committed at the Family Planning Summit in London, on July 11, 2017, to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate

for any method among adolescent women (15-19 years) from 40- 50 per cent by 2020 and 55 per cent by 2025 and reduce teenage pregnancy among 15-19-year-olds from 18-12 per cent by 2020 and 10 per cent by 2025. More than half (54 per cent) of sexually active adolescent women in Kenya who do not want to become pregnant still have an unmet need for modern contraception. Guttmacher Institute says 86% of unintended pregnancies in the country occur among this group.

Secondly, interventions to provide sexuality education and reproductive health services should be applied proactively and with unyielding resolve. And finally, addressing SGBV and harmful cultural practices that contribute to teenage pregnancies must be the responsibility of everyone, as we all have the responsibility to ensure girls are accorded the opportunity to chart their own bright future.

Humanitarian Action

Kenya has faced multiple emergencies in 2020. The country experienced the worst locust infestation in 70 years from December 2019 upto early March 2020. The long rainy season from March to May was characterized by floods that affected 812, 171 people, claimed 346 lives. Several lakes in the Rift Valley are flowing back, causing further displacement of local populations.

The Covid-19 pandemic has put an additional burden on the country since the first case was reported in March 2020. All 47 counties in the country have recorded Covid-19 cases although the concentration is in major cities and counties such as Nairobi and Mombasa.

Kenya hosts close to 500,000 refugees in the Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps and urban locations that have also reported Covid-19 cases. UNFPA has been working with the government of Kenya to strengthen response on Sexual and Reproductive Health needs, as well as Sexual and Gender Based Violence in humanitarian settings



RESULTS ACHIEVED



Supported deliveries in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps and the host communities



Dignity kits have been procured and distributed to survivors at risk of Gender Based Violence



GBV services including psychosocial support in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei Refugee Camps and host community



Personnel have been trained on various aspects of SRH, including Minimum initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)



Personnel have been trained on various aspects of GBV, including clinical management of rape



Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH/GBV.



Photo: Young women displaced by flooding in Turkana

The bedrock of community health: Elderly women championing maternal health within refugee camps.

Kenya hosts 494, 649 refugees from over 10 countries mostly within the Great Lakes region. A total of 13, 527 (2.7%) refugees in Kenya are older persons aged above 60 years old. Rose Ikabu Peter is an elderly refugee woman working as a community health worker in the Kalobeyei Refugee Camp that hosts close to 40,000 refugees. She arrived in the camp in 2016 from South Sudan.

Rose's work entails sensitizing women on safe motherhood. She talks to them about attending ante-natal and postnatal clinic attendance, birth preparedness and hospital delivery, immunization for under-5s, exclusive breastfeeding and family planning. She is also part of the community health workers who are relied on to distribute supplies such as iron supplements and condoms.

"Covid-19 has made our work challenging as elderly community health workers because of increased risks to our own health.

I have to be cautious about my own health as I go about my tasks," she observes. She continues that older women need more attention because they have limited access to information, sanitizers, and even water due to the constrained social support occasioned by Covid-19.

Engaging older women in community service has numerous advantages, according to Rose. "Older women are respected in the community. They are seen as having wisdom hence their services are valued. They can share their experiences and influence change," she stated.

UNFPA will continue to collaborate with partners such as UNHCR, Humanity and Inclusion, HelpAge to ensure strategic focus on older persons especially women is strengthened across the humanitarian - development - peace nexus.





Photo: Young lady from the Feminist Center in Kibera shows her end GBV gesture



Eliminating all forms of Gender-Based Violence and FGM in support of women and girls rights

UNFPA continues to focus on interventions that will strengthen government efforts towards the realization of Commitment 13, 14 and 15 on ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and all harmful practices like FGM and child marriage. The country office has provided both technical and financial support towards the development and implementation of the Presidential Acceleration Plan to end FGM by 2022, while working to strengthen response to gender based violence.

We have been on the ground, raising awareness ,engaging duty bearers and communities, as well as working with implementing partners to provide psychosocial and medical support to survivors of FGM and GBV.

The high level advocacy campaigns to end GBV and FGM have seen the president approve at the cabinet level the formation of an Inter-Agency Committee on GBV and a Multi-Agency committee on FGM to ensure that committments made by the government are implemented. This is in line with the ICPD25 national committments.



Photo: Woman in traditional attire in Olgulului, Kajiado South

Ending FGM in Kenya and upholding the rights of women and girls

FGM is widely practiced in some Kenyan communities, and involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for cultural or other reasons. It can result in severe physical and psychological harm that continues throughout a woman's life.

Mumina Jirmo was seven years old when she underwent FGM. For her, the experience was shocking and painful, so much so that more than 20 years later, the sight of someone cutting meat with a knife is still disturbing to her as it brings back traumatizing memories.

Mumina is a mother of three, but her journey to motherhood was not easy. "I experienced prolonged labour and postpartum hemorrhage with my pregnancies, and sadly, I have lost two babies due to delivery complications brought on by FGM" she tearfully explains.

"I experienced prolonged labour and postpartum hemorrhage with my pregnancies, and sadly, I have lost two babies due to delivery complications brought on by FGM"

Through her community-based organization Women Rising, Mumina has become a fierce anti-FGM advocate, working with young mothers to protect the next generation from the practice. "We speak to young women and young mothers with the goal of educating them on the dangers of FGM so that they don't circumcise their daughters," she says.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



National Plans have been developed on ending FGM (Presidential Acceleration Plan)



FGM hotspot counties visited to raise awareness on the need to end FGM by 2022



People reached through community sensitization forums, dialogues, and Anti FGM campaigns



Healthcare workers trained on various aspects of GBV, including clinical management of rape



Draft county policies and 23 action plans developed on ending FGM



Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH/GBV.



Girls and women survivors of violence supported to access essential services through dignity kits, counselling and referrals pathways



Duty bearers trained on GBV prevention and Response in Baringo county



Tele-counsellors trained on guiding principles on Gender Based Violence and the referral pathway.

Making Population Data Available and Accessible to All

Availability and accessibility to high-quality, timely and reliable population and related data at national, county, and sub-county levels is a key pillar in implementation of any commitment. Disaggregation of data by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location further ensures that every person everywhere is counted and accounted for. Evidence generated from these data inform decisions that have impact on the lives of all.

To ensure this goal is achieved, UNFPA provided technical and financial support to the government of Kenya through the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), in conducting the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC). For the first time, with support from UNFPA and other partners, Kenya used Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) approach to conduct 2019 KPHC. Kenya locally assembled over 168,000 tablets that were used in the enumeration phase of the census. By use of this approach, more details including the GIS information that is critical in spatial planning was collected.

UNFPA also conducted independent peer monitoring of the enumeration phase of the 2019 KPHC. Experts from Statistics offices and UNFPA offices from 8 countries participated in the process. UNFPA is currently working with KNBS to ensure the data is analyzed and made available to all for planning.

Population and housing census reports published:



Volume I:

KPHC 2019- Population by County and Sub-County



Volume II:

KPHC 2019- Distribution of Population by Administrative Units



Volume III:

KPHC 2019- Distribution of Population by Age, Sex and Administrative units



Volume IV:

Distribution of Population by Socio-Economic



Photo: Amb Ukur Yattani , Dr Ademola Olajide and Prof. MARGaret Kobia during the launch the 2020 State of the World and State of Kenya report



Photo: Stacey Akinyi writes on the black board in school

One year on, 14 year old Stacey Akinyi affirms progress made in accelerating promises made to women and girls

At the closing ceremony of the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit held last year, 14 year old Stacey Akinyi made a rousing speech that called for the protection of girls against early marriage and FGM. Addressing participants who included Kenya's Vice President, His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, Akinyi stated that the highlight of the Summit for her was the President's commitment that she and other girls would be able to access education with no barriers. An avid football player, Akinyi called on stakeholders in the room to invest in sports and safe spaces for girls who come from deprived and challenging backgrounds.

One year later, we caught up with Stacey who lives in the Kibera informal settlement of Nairobi, to find out her thoughts on the progress made. Now 15, she has joined high school and had just begun her studies when the Covid-19 pandemic forced the closure of schools. Today, she is taking part in a mentorship session for adolescent girls held at the PolyCom Development Center in Kibera.

"I feel that we are going somewhere, and soon we will become an FGM free world. We have made

progress in the country in fighting against FGM, and I believe cases are reducing" she says. Stacey has been spending time at the Polycom Development Center, a safe space for young adolescent girls living in Kibera. "If you are idle in the slum, you find yourself being driven into stressful thoughts and situations. I like coming here because I can talk to mentors, and attend girl sessions where we talk about issues such as how to handle sexual harassment, having good relationships, and helping each other," she says.

Stacey is looking forward to going back to school in 2021 and hopes that no girl will be left behind when the time comes to finally reopen learning institutions. "I want to urge the Government and other organizations like UNFPA to continue empowering and supporting girls. I want all girls to go back to school, even those who have been affected by early pregnancy and motherhood. They have a right to continue with their education," she says.



The Nairobi Summit



The Nairobi Summit on
ICPD25



Photo: Marie Maelo, a midwife, poses for a photo with two mothers in the clinic

Countering maternal and infant mortality in Kenya's high-burden counties.

One of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals was that all countries would reduce maternal mortality by 75% by 2015. However, many developing countries, including Kenya, did not meet this goal.

In 2015, the UN H6 Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child And Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) was launched to provide catalytic support to six of Kenya's counties identified as having the highest maternal mortality rates. The hope was that through the interventions, the county health systems would be stimulated to address the various challenges that lead to maternal and child deaths. The six high burden counties identified were Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Migori and Wajir.

An evaluation of this collaborative initiative between the Government of Kenya and UN H6 partners (UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UN Women, UNAIDS, and the World Bank), shows significant improvement in access and quality of integrated maternal health, HIV and gender-based violence (GBV) services between 2015 and 2020.

The evaluation revealed significant increase in the uptake and delivery of life-saving health services for mothers and newborns in Kenya's highest burdened counties in the last five years. Significant improvement in access and quality of integrated maternal health, HIV and gender-based violence (GBV) services was also noted between 2015 and 2020.

The report shows that from 2015-20, the number of women who utilised antenatal care services increased by over 32%. Access to skilled attendance at birth also increased by 30% as a result of sustained community-based advocacy, improved infrastructure and provision of health equipment under the UN H6 Joint Programme. The programme supported extensive training and mentoring of health care workers across the target counties on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, providing them with requisite skills and knowledge to respond to emergencies at primary health facilities, and to diagnose and refer patients adequately.

Based on an in-depth evaluation of programme interventions carried out in the six counties, the report found that the number of women who received HIV testing and counselling at antenatal clinics increased gradually from 2015 to 2020, with Lamu County recording the highest increase (from 40% to 99%) in the proportion of those tested. This is a critical milestone in achieving Kenya's target to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In addition, the number of GBV survivors who sought health services increased, with Migori county recording the highest increase of 50%.

Whereas the six target counties bear the biggest burden of maternal, newborn, and child deaths, paid health services remain inaccessible to many, due to high poverty levels. The WHO standard for countries is that there should be a health facility within a five-kilometer radius, but in most of

the focus counties, facilities are 50-200 kilometers apart. Strengthening of institutional capacity has stimulated an increase in county spending on health: from an average of 22 percent to 26 percent between 2015 and 2020, representing an 18% increase in budget allocation. Private sector partnerships have also availed additional resources for investment in critical programme areas.

“The programme has shown that a little investment done right and done smartly, can change health outcomes, and has motivated investments by the counties themselves in these critical areas,” said UNFPA Representative for Kenya, Dr Ademola Olajide.



Way forward and roadmap to 2nd anniversary of the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit

- Strengthen stakeholders involvement, continuous coaching to both survivors and service providers and increase the number of rescue centers for Female Sex Workers.
- Sustaining the momentum to win against Covid-19!
- Strengthen national and county capacity for data collection on disasters and emergencies.
- Strengthen mainstreaming of SRH and GBV actions in climate change related disasters.
- Addressing vulnerability to GBV among adolescents and youth in refugee camps.
- Conduct Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, July-Dec 2021
- World Population Day, 11 July 2021
- Facilitate high level advocacy forums for increased domestic financing of Family Planning
- Support development and implementation of tools to track domestic financing of Family Planning commodities
- Support development and implementation of functional electronic logistical management information system to strengthen Supply Chain Management
- Launch of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights manual for visually impaired youth
- Dissemination of the findings of the Sexual and reproductive health rights needs assessment of women with disabilities
- Support to the government of Kenya in the implementation of the Presidential acceleration plan to end FGM in Kenya by 2022 through



Photo: Participant at ICPD25 Summit.

the multi-agency committee.

- Continue to support the GoK and partners in the prevention and response to GBV as well as the inter-agency committee on GBV.
- Support for community based organizations to strengthen community level interventions.
- Support the State Department for Gender in the implementation of the Intergovernmental framework on Gender
- Prepare the second Annual Progress report on Implementation of ICPD25 in Kenya

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