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Accelerating progress towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health is pivotal to delivering on the promise of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In 2019, Kenya was the proud host of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, which was jointly convened by UNFPA, and the Governments of Kenya and Denmark. UNFPA’s work is focused on advancing young people’s ability to access information and services on their sexual and reproductive health, improving access to modern contraceptives, and ensuring that women and girls are living lives free from gender-based violence.

While significant progress has been made in health policy and service delivery infrastructure in Kenya, disparities in maternal and neonatal health indicators such as access to skilled attendance during childbirth, continue to be a challenge. Nearly 90% of maternal deaths are attributed to inadequate quality of care.

UNFPA has deployed several mitigating measures throughout 2021, including support to the Ministry of Health in developing the first Nursing and Midwifery Policy that will establish an enabling environment for the nursing and midwifery health workforce. Additionally, UNFPA supported the training of health workers in Isiolo, Kilifi, and Kitui counties on quality of care during pregnancy and delivery.

In 2021, our support to the Government of Kenya in ensuring reliable access to quality, affordable, and safe modern contraceptives was bolstered through public-private partnerships that led to improved capacities in supply chain management and the adoption of innovative technology for last-mile delivery of family planning commodities. The development and launch of the Electronic Proof of Deliveries (e-POD), a mobile application with GPS capabilities that provides real-time data to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of family planning commodities and other essential medicines and supplies to health facilities in the country.

At the Paris held 2021 Generation Equality Forum, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced 12 concrete commitments towards addressing gender equality gaps, including the allocation of US$23 million towards funding for gender-based violence prevention and response. In line with these commitments, UNFPA has continued to provide financial and technical assistance to national and county governments in strengthening research and innovation for policy formulation and programming on GBV and FGM, including in humanitarian settings.

In 2022, UNFPA will support the government under the 10th Country Programme (2022-2026) to respond to obligations outlined in Kenya’s Vision 2030 and related Medium Term Implementation Frameworks, as well as commitments made by Kenya at the ICPD25 summit and the Generation Equality Forum. The programme aims to improve the availability, accessibility, quality and use of SRHR information and services. Let us work together to improve the lives of youth, women, and girls in Kenya.

Anders Thomsen, UNFPA Representative.
Programmatic Overview
UNFPA continues to promote universal access to quality, integrated sexual and reproductive health services in Kenya through technical support to national and county governments in service delivery, advocacy and policy dialogue, capacity building, and the use of data and information for evidence-based decision-making. While significant challenges persist for certain populations such as adolescents and persons with disabilities, advocacy for inclusive and accessible sexual and reproductive health programmes has strengthened access for these marginalized groups.

UNFPA’s efforts to build the capacity of healthcare workers has led to improved knowledge and skills in areas such as inclusive SRH services for women and girls with disabilities, maternal and newborn care, maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR), adolescent health, and addressing violence against women and girls in sexual and reproductive health services.

To advance the gains made during the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, UNFPA supported the government of Kenya in the development of investment cases that define the scale and scope of investments needed to accelerate progress towards the three transformative results, namely: zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices. The investment cases outline the costs of achieving the three zeros by 2030, while identifying areas where the government can make additional investments and also identifies gaps that require additional mobilization of resources to ensure success at the national level. The process contributed to training for both the Government and UNFPA technical officers on the development of future investment cases that can drive the national development agenda.

In ensuring commodity security and the elimination of the unmet need for family planning, UNFPA worked with national and development partners including NCPD, USAID, FCDO, and BMGF to successfully negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Kenya that outlines a clear roadmap by the Ministry of Health to gradually increase the national budget allocation for the procurement of commodities up to 100% in 2026. The agreement is aligned to Kenya’s FP2030 and ICPD25 commitments towards universal availability of quality, accessible, affordable, and safe modern contraceptives.

UNFPA provided technical and financial support towards improvement of tools that will be used to administer the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS)2022. Specifically, KDHS modules related to GBV and FGM were enhanced to ensure that adequate data is collected to guide the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of FGM and GBV related interventions throughout UNFPA’s 10th Country Programme (2022-2026).

To improve access to services and ensure girls and women receive appropriate and quality services for GBV and FGM prevention, protection, and care. UNFPA provided technical and financial support to the ODPP for the development and launch of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual on FGM and a Rapid Reference Guide which will help to enhance prosecution mechanisms on FGM, ensure access to justice for FGM survivors, and the protection of those at risk. UNFPA also supported the integration of humanitarian interventions into the National GBV Prevention and Response Policy, 2021.

In 2021, UNFPA continued to support the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICPD25 commitments that was developed in 2020. Working closely with government implementing agencies including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, State Department for Labor, State Department for Social Protection, State Department for Basic Education, State Department of Vocational and Technical Training, Anti-FGM Board, Council of Governors Secretariat (COG), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), the Kenya country office facilitated various implementation activities to achieve the objectives of the commitments.

UNFPA will continue to strengthen efforts towards promoting access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, including through strengthening health systems, training midwives, improving access to sexual and reproductive health information, and supporting health services for those left furthest behind.
Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths
Nearly 3 in every 4 maternal deaths are linked to direct causes such as postpartum hemorrhage, hypertensive disorders, infections, and other delivery-related complications. Many of these maternal deaths are preventable by ensuring access to high-quality and timely care. In Kenya, only one-third of public health facilities are capable of delivering the seven life-saving signal functions of basic emergency obstetric and newborn care.

UNFPA works jointly with national and county governments to improve capacities in the provision of high-quality, integrated sexual and reproductive health services, including equipping selected health facilities with basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care equipment. In collaboration with partners at national and county levels, UNFPA has focused on improvements in maternal health interventions such as enhancing the quality of midwifery training and advocacy for the deployment of midwives to health facilities, institutionalization of maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response systems, as well as mobilizing communities and training of service providers in prevention and management of obstetric fistula.

UNFPA advocates for prioritization of resource allocation and the generation and use of data on sexual and reproductive health at the county level to address key gaps including high cost of care, inadequate human resources for health, and insufficient quality of care. UNFPA also aims to strengthen the coordination of sexual and reproductive programming in humanitarian settings for better maternal health outcomes.
Maternal Deaths Prevented 739
Unsafe Abortions Averted 59,886

Strengthening Policies For Sexual And Reproductive Health

UNFPA in collaboration with Johnson and Johnson supported the Ministry of Health in developing the first National Nursing and Midwifery Policy to facilitate the establishment of an enabling environment for the nursing and midwifery health workforce.

UNFPA also provided technical and financial support for the development of a National Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy, aligned to the National Cancer Policy launched in 2021. The strategy identifies key interventions and targets to be achieved by 2030 as a path towards the elimination of cervical cancer.

With support from UNFPA, County Health Managers in Kitui, Kilifi, Narok and Isiolo counties were trained on Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) to enhance their capacity in identifying the leading causes of maternal and perinatal mortality, and development of response strategies to improve quality of care and reduce deaths.

Access To Sexual And Reproductive Health Services

UNFPA, in partnership with Flying Doctors Society, Amref and MPESA Foundation supported the screening of 879 women for obstetric fistula in Kenyatta National Hospital and Bungoma County, of whom 207 had successful surgical operations. During these fistula camps, 67 healthcare workers received orientation on the prevention and management of fistula.

UNFPA collaborated with Damu Sasa, an innovative blood donation drive, to increase the availability of blood in the management of hemorrhages during childbirth. 30,000 blood pints were collected through blood drives held in the course of 2021.

UNFPA in collaboration with Amref International University and Philips Foundation, UNFPA supported training of midwives in Migori and Homabay counties in obstetric ultrasonography using portable ultrasound devices. In 2021, the midwives provided free obstetric ultrasound services to 670 women accessing ante-natal care.

Emergency Response

The ability to quickly provide the affected population with critical relief supplies was strengthened in response to various emergencies in the country. UNFPA distributed 17 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits, and 320 mama kits in response to Covid-19 and drought-related emergencies.
Ending the Unmet Need for Family Planning
Access to affordable, quality reproductive health essentials such as condoms, contraceptives, and other medicines is a right that should be accorded to all. Ensuring the secure supply of these commodities is essential to the realization of this right. In Kenya, the unmet need for family planning stands at 18 per cent among currently married women but is significantly higher among young people at 23 per cent and women living with HIV at 38 per cent. To address these disparities, UNFPA works to strengthen the supply chain management system, while focusing on evidence-based advocacy to increase national ownership of family planning programs and essential reproductive health supplies.

This includes working with partners in government, civil society, the private sector, and development agencies to advocate for increased domestic resource allocation for family planning commodity security, support towards delivery of quality family planning services especially for women living with HIV and young people, and community mobilization to increase demand for rights-based family planning information and services.

UNFPA procured family planning commodities that averted 266,572 unintended pregnancies, 739 maternal deaths, and 59,886 unsafe abortions averted. The commodities contributed to 1,794,600 Couple Years of Protection (CYPs).

Electronic Proof of Deliveries (e-POD) App rolled out in 7 counties (Nairobi, Isiolo, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Lamu, Kilifi, and Kwale). The App was developed as part of the “the last mile Kenya” program implemented through a public-private partnership between KEMSA and Coca-Cola Beverage Africa with the support of UNFPA. Borrowing from Coca-Cola’s expertise and best practices in supply chain management and distribution, the app digitizes data entry at the point of delivery to provide real-time data on the commodities received, their quantities, and time of delivery.

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KEMSA workers prepare boxes to be delivered with medical supplies and family planning commodities at KEMSA Warehouse in Nairobi, Kenya.

e- POD App in 7 Counties
were supported to develop functional electronic logistics management system for forecasting and monitoring essential medicines and supplies, including sexual and reproductive health commodities.

Early Warning & Alert System
UNFPA supported KEMSA to develop the first phase of the FP Commodity early warning and alert system which is a digitized proactive system that flags commodities status within the supply chain system.

Through the commodity security forum, UNFPA alongside USAID, FCDO and BMGF successfully negotiated with the government to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in which the Ministry of Health is to gradually increase the national budget allocation for the procurement of commodities up to 100% in 2026.
Informed Choices & Decision-Making By Adolescents & The Youth
UNFPA endeavors to ensure that every young person’s potential is fulfilled by equipping them with the right tools to help them make informed decisions about their health and well-being. In Kenya, UNFPA supports the government and other actors in the development and implementation of laws, policies and programmes in relevant sectors that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and facilitate holistic empowerment of adolescents and youth.

At the national level, UNFPA provided technical support in the development of the National Adolescent Health Strategy and the National Action Plan for addressing Teenage Pregnancy that currently galvanizes the efforts of stakeholders across sectors. At a county level, UNFPA supported the finalization of the Narok County Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Teenage Pregnancy, a strategic document that will guide response efforts in the county which has the highest prevalence of teenage pregnancy nationwide. Working with youth-led organizations, UNFPA supported initiatives that provide young people with optimal opportunities to develop their full potential, freely express their views, and live free of poverty, discrimination, and violence. This includes facilitating adolescent and youth participation in decision-making, including in development and humanitarian actions, and economically empowering young people through livelihood and employment programmes.

In collaboration with the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel and other youth-led and youth-serving organizations, UNFPA reached young people with information on their rights to education, health, and equitable services, with a special focus on economically disadvantaged, socially marginalized, and vulnerable youth. This is done through multiple channels, including social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

In 2021, UNFPA launched a youth photo competition that awarded nine young people from across Kenya for their creative photo submissions capturing moments and activities showing women and girls, healthcare workers, young people, law enforcement, community leaders, and others working towards ZERO unmet need for family planning, ZERO preventable maternal deaths, and ZERO gender based violence and harmful practices such as FGM. More than 600 images were submitted by youth participants from counties across Kenya. The winners were recognized by the panel of judges for inspiring images that demonstrated creativity, powerful storytelling, and talent in illustrating these issues.
As co-chairs of the UN Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Youth and Adolescents, UNFPA and ILO continue to provide strategic leadership on youth matters. The work of the technical working group has greatly enhanced synergies among agencies through mapping and documenting of adolescent and youth interventions carried out jointly and independently by various UN agencies in Kenya. The TWG also ensured the strong articulation of the youth pillar in the formulation of the current UNSDCF.

165 Healthcare Providers

From health facilities in Narok and Kitui counties were mentored on the provision of AYFS in line with the Ministry of Health Guidelines

342,964

Adolescents and youth received critical lifesaving SRH information and services

100 Teen Mums

Taken through vocational training, equipping them with professional and entrepreneurship skills to become economically autonomous

41

TOTs (13 male and 21 female) from vocational training centres in Narok and Suswa were trained on strengthening the integration of SRHR in the delivery of vocational training and engagement of young people in the community.

2,550

Adolescent girls from Kibera informal settlements were equipped with life skills to help them make informed decisions about their SRH and general wellbeing

520

Adolescent girls and boys from marginalized rural and urban setups (Kibera, Mukuru, Kwale and Isiolo) were provided with dignity kits to help them maintain their dignity and protect them from various SRHR risks.

Young girls receive Dignity Kits from UNFPA KENYA.
Ending Gender-Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation & Child Marriage
Strengthening national and county government accountability mechanisms to end gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and child marriage requires an integrated approach backed by political and community support. UNFPA in collaboration with partners works to establish effective intersectoral coordination mechanisms on gender-based violence, including risk mitigation and integration across humanitarian sectors.

UNFPA supports comprehensive, survivor-centered responses including improvements to the quality of sexual and gender-based violence prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services and access to such services. By implementing a range of training programmes for service providers and community awareness interventions, UNFPA ensures that those in need of support are referred to a wide range of assistance, including life-saving medical services, dignity kits, psychosocial services, and legal support.

UNFPA has advocated for and supported higher-level dialogues that led to increased political commitments to end GBV and FGM. This is evidenced in the adoption and roll-out of policies on ending FGM at the county level and expanded engagement of community leaders on ending FGM resulting in declarations by Samburu elders in Lakiis, Baringo County, and by Pokot elders of Kenya and Uganda to end cross border FGM.

UNFPA also supports enhanced regional coordination on cross-border FGM through a Regional Action Plan developed for Kenya Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia and Ethiopia.
At risk of GBV and FGM were reached with SRH/GBV information and awareness activities

16,921 Women & Girls
At risk of GBV and FGM were reached with SRH/GBV information and awareness activities

90 Young Men
Were trained and empowered on negative social and cultural norms, GBV and FGM, and their role as champions and agents of change to end GBV and FGM

8,801 Women & Girls
At risk were reached with GBV services (prevention and protection) and legal FGM services (risk mitigation and response services) including psychosocial support and medical services.

151 Women
In the Kibera informal settlement trained on soap production, marketing and branding skills.

Ensuring the availability of human resources able to perform in an emergency
County Gender Directors from 15 counties were trained on GBV in emergencies; 117 health care workers were oriented on clinical management of rape; 115 health care workers were oriented on mental health and psychosocial support for survivors of GBV

2,128 Dignity Kits
Were distributed to address GBV vulnerabilities including harmful practices such as FGM as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and interethnic conflicts. (Enhance the ability to quickly provide the affected population with critical relief supplies:)

2,313 People
2,313 people in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement including women, girls, men, and persons with disabilities supported with life skills training, sports events, and awareness-raising sessions on prevention and response to gender-based violence through the sports for protection programme “Play2Protect.”

UNFPA supported the development and launch of an E-tool based manual to strengthen the capacity of health care providers on FGM prevention, protection, and quality care. UNFPA also supported the development and rolling out of the mobile App “Pasha,” to improve and strengthen reporting mechanisms on FGM cases.
07 Population Data & Information
UNFPA supports the government of Kenya to strengthen national and county level data systems for better access to high-quality population data and information for evidence-based decision-making. This includes support in the execution of the Kenya Population and Housing Census, socio-demographic surveys and rapid assessments in humanitarian crises, as well as analysis, publication and dissemination of vital statistics and improved birth and death registration services. Expanding the quality and availability of this data facilitates its use in mapping population vulnerabilities and delivering where it counts, while ensuring the effective coordination and tracking of implementation of the ICPD25 Commitments, actions to end adolescent pregnancy and the Demographic Dividend roadmap.

UNFPA promotes the strengthening of national and county-level integrated monitoring and evaluation systems that are geared towards improved accountability in the achievement of development results. Alongside key stakeholders in government, UNFPA facilitates the capacity building of institutions in developing and implementing robust M&E systems both at national and county levels to produce quality evaluations. The use of such evaluation resultssupports evidence-based decision-making; and contributes key lessons learned to the existing knowledge base on how to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and achievement of the sustainable development goals.
From KNBS and PSRI equipped with R-Software for statistical analysis, which they utilized to conduct population projections and draft the population projection monograph.

From Narok (7), Marsabit (7), Mandera (5) and Wajir (7) were trained on establishment of County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES)

Fellows sponsored to undertake Masters in Population Studies at the University of Nairobi’s Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI)

5 Transformative Investment Cases Developed, namely:

- **INVESTMENT CASE 01**: Ending preventable maternal deaths
- **INVESTMENT CASE 02**: Ending the unmet need for family planning
- **INVESTMENT CASE 03**: Ending harmful practices: Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- **INVESTMENT CASE 04**: Ending harmful practices: Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- **INVESTMENT CASE 05**: Ending harmful practices: Child marriage
Strengthening community structures is paramount in winning the fight against GBV and FGM, ensuring ownership and sustainability of the programmes, and reaching the furthest left behind populations. Key among these are engaging local administrators, men, and boys as allies, champions, and agents of change, community elders, community health volunteers (CHVs), reformed circumcisers who have abandoned the practice, gender sector working groups, and community-based organizations.

Knowledge sharing: Strategic partnerships with national referral and teaching institutions in hosting knowledge sharing fora yield great results given the convening capabilities of such institutions and their ability to bring together a diverse pool of stakeholders particularly practitioners in private and public spheres, policymakers, researchers, and students.

Technological advancement: New and innovative ways of programming during the Covid-19 pandemic led to greater reach at low cost. The use of digitized family planning reporting and electronic proof of delivery tools has contributed to strengthening supply chain management. As well, the launch of an E-Learning course on SRHR for women with disabilities proved to be an effective platform for digital learning.

Use of local actors to deliver humanitarian assistance has been effective in ensuring humanitarian support reaches vulnerable populations including those in hard-to-reach areas. UNFPA engaged with several local organizations that were able to deliver humanitarian support despite the Covid-19 constraints.