United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)

2022-2023 Organizational report

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HIV in UNFPA's mandate

UNFPA strives for a world in which every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. The <u>UNFPA 2022–2025 Strategic Plan</u> highlights scaling up high-quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services (inclusive of HIV) as part of universal health coverage (UHC) plans; incorporating the multisectoral needs of women, adolescents and youth along the continuum of care; and addressing structural inequalities, such as discriminatory gender and social norms that hinder the achievement of the Fund's three transformative results.¹

Strategic priorities include the scale-up of national interventions to achieve equity in access and to improve the quality of comprehensive SRH care through support for the implementation of the essential sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) package. This includes comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and the prevention and treatment of HIV and other STIs. UNFPA advocates and provides guidance for reaching marginalized, key and vulnerable populations who face inequities in access to comprehensive SRHR information and services along the continuum of care.

Key UNFPA strategy for HIV

UNFPA's approach to HIV and other STIs serves the overall goal of ensuring good sexual health and well-being as a foundation for good reproductive health. The promotion of sexual health is part of UNFPA's Strategic Plan is a key component of comprehensive SRHR and contributes to the 2021–2026 Global AIDS Strategy. Using an integrated approach, the upcoming UNFPA strategy on sexual health and well-being and HIV/STI prevention aspires to achieve effective integration of HIV/STI prevention and promotion of sexual health and well-being across UNFPA programming. It also seeks to expand robust partnerships for tailored interventions, integrated approaches, and the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable populations towards a world free from discrimination and which realizes sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Top results in 2022-2023

UNFPA activities averted 264 000 new HIV infections, 31 million unintended pregnancies and 11.5 million sexually transmitted infections	
• Logistic information system: 51% of	 Adolescent girls: 9.9 million marginalized
countries have in place partial or full electronic	adolescent girls were empowered through
logistic management system for reaching "the	health, social and economic asset-building
last mile".	programmes.
 In-school sexuality education: 36%	 Out-of-school sexuality education: 32% of
countries operationalized in-school CSE.	countries delivered out-of-school CSE.

¹ <u>https://www.unfpa.org/data/transformative-results</u>

Youth policies: 66% of countries integrated SRHR into national youth policies and plans.	 Participation: 82 countries promoted youth- led innovative solutions related to the three transformative results.
Gender and social norms: 40% of countries had a national mechanism to address discriminatory gender and social norms.	 Social movements: 58% of countries had social movements that advocated against harmful gender and social norms.
 Gender-based violence: 69% of countries experiencing humanitarian crises had a functioning inter-agency coordination mechanism or platform to address gender- based violence. 	• People with disabilities: 292 250 women and young people with disabilities benefited from services related to SRH gender-based violence and harmful practices.
 Preparedness: 38% countries integrated SRH into emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction plans. 	Service provision: 52.8 million adolescents and youth benefited from SRH services.
 Legal frameworks: 49% of countries had laws and regulations that support the realization of universal access to SRH. 	 Universal health coverage: 73% of countries integrated sexual and reproductive health into UHC-related policies.
 Climate policies: 37% of countries integrated SRH into policies related to climate change. 	

The Global Prevention Coalition was supported. UNFPA continued to co-convene the Global Prevention Coalition and the Global HIV Prevention Working Group. The Coalition expanded the number of focus countries from 28 in 2022 to 38 in 2023 and supported national multisectoral leadership on HIV prevention. Its work supported focus countries in achieving steeper overall reductions (33%) in new infections than countries outside the Coalition (7%). The South-to-South HIV Prevention Learning Network employed diverse approaches for learning, including South-South transfers of skills and mentoring.

Guidance was provided for out-of-school CSE. In 2022–2023, UNFPA supported CSE in over 70 countries, and assisted the development and implementation of national strategies, policies, curricula and guidelines in at least 35 of them. It sustained its work on phase 2 of the Global Programme on Out-of-School CSE in 12 countries, focusing on young key populations, and delivered training to strengthen participants' capacities for planning and implementing CSE programmes for and with young people living with HIV.

Nine country case studies² were launched as part of the Global Programme on Out-of-School CSE, presenting good practices and lessons learned in reaching populations left behind. Additionally, nine papers were published in a special edition of Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters in partnership with the UNDP / UNFPA/ WHO / World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction.

At the country level, UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of General Education in Zambia to train 618 teachers to deliver CSE, which benefitted over 729 000 learners across 228 schools, with 136 schools establishing CSE clubs. Similar work included the establishment of 294 CSE out-of-school clubs, which reached over 189 000 adolescents with adolescent SRH information and facilitated 13 230 referrals for SRH services.

² <u>https://www.unfpa.org/featured-publication/international-technical-and-programmatic-guidance-out-school-</u> <u>comprehensive</u>

Condom programming was supported. UNFPA completed its technical support to partners in the Global Fund Condom Programme Stewardship Strategic Initiative 2021–2023 (Condom SI). This included introducing new, virtual channels for service delivery and expanding knowledge of social media marketing in Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia. Condom SI worked with governments to establish functional last-mile distribution systems for a package of HIV prevention options and to extend those mechanisms beyond health facilities. In Uganda, the initiative mapped "hotspots" for condom distribution, implemented real-time stock tracking and used the UNAIDS/UNFPA "condom needs estimation tool". Elsewhere, UNFPA continued to support condom demand creation and condom use sensitization activities, including by supporting implementation of the "CONDOMIZE!" campaign in 20 higher and tertiary education institutions in Zimbabwe. In 2022, 80 campaigns reached around 110 000 young people, while at least 120 campaigns reached about 165 000 young people in 2023.

Leadership was provided on human rights and gender. In 2022–2023, UNFPA worked with the Wilson Center to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence. In 2022, the first global symposium on this issue was held to foster engagement and dialogue. This momentum continued into 2023, including through advocacy, webinars, a discussion paper on gauging such violence,³ and guidance on the safe and ethical use of technology to address gender-based violence and harmful practices.⁴

UNFPA, which leads on gender-based violence within the Global Protection Cluster, developed a comprehensive three-year plan⁵ in 2023 to address the multifaceted requirements for gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response. Some 4.2 million people were reached with gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response services in 50 countries, while 33 000 women in 23 countries were reached with humanitarian cash assistance for gender-based violence case management and/or other response and risk mitigation measures.

SRHR integration was advanced. The multipartner "2gether 4 SRHR" programme has promoted the integration of SRHR/HIV and gender-based violence services in 10 countries over the past four years. The programme brings together the efforts of UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the UNAIDS Secretariat to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of people in eastern and Southern Africa by facilitating enabling legal and policy environments and catalysing community empowerment, service delivery and knowledge sharing. Successes and insights from Phase 1 of the programme guided the introduction of Phase 2, which began in 2023 and will continue until 2027. Two new outcomes were introduced in Phase 2—one focused on gender and social norms, and the other on SRHR during humanitarian crises and emergency situations.

At country level, UNFPA's support enabled significant progress in utilizing integrated SRHR services, including HIV outreach and care. For example, in 2022–2023, UNFPA provided direct support to the Sudanese People Living with HIV Care Association to reach 2580 people living with HIV in 28 states with integrated SRH services, including STI services and family planning information.

⁴ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_SafeEthicalGBVTechGuide_Summary_2023.pdf

³ <u>https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-</u>

pdf/UNFPA Measuring%20TF%20GBV %20A%20Discussion%20Paper FINAL.pdf

⁵ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/GBV emerg strategy SUMMARY FINAL.pdf

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