



# Rising Together

for Rights & Health

Annual Report

2025


Marking a year of resilience, partnerships and life-saving impact across **Asia and the Pacific**



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Cover photo: ©UNFPA in Lao PDR

A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a red headscarf with a blue and white floral pattern. She is holding a newborn baby who is wrapped in a grey blanket. The woman's eyes are closed, and she has a peaceful expression. The background is a blue fabric.

**Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.**



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In 2025, across Asia and the Pacific, the question at the heart of our work remained urgent: do women, girls and young people have the power to shape their own lives?

In a year marked by profound global uncertainty, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stood firm in its commitment to ensure that rights, health and futures remain within reach for all.

Deepening humanitarian crises, escalating climate shocks and widening inequalities placed unprecedented pressure on already strained systems. Funding cuts across the development and humanitarian landscape are forcing difficult decisions and threatening hard-won progress. Global discussions around the UN system reinforced a clear message: the way we work must evolve to meet this moment.

Yet, even in this challenging context, progress did not halt. The results achieved across the region demonstrate what is possible when commitment, partnership and evidence-based action come together.

Across the region, UNFPA reached 12.5 million people with essential sexual and reproductive health and protection services. Together with our partners, we helped prevent 978,000 unintended pregnancies, avert over 20,500 maternal deaths and avoid 256,000 unsafe abortions.

We responded to 41 emergencies across 26 countries, ensuring that life-saving supplies reached affected populations swiftly, often within 72 hours. These results matter, not only for their scale but for what they represent: the ability of systems to deliver, even under strain.

This report reflects that progress.



What made this progress possible is clear. Investments in midwifery, supply chains and data systems strengthened the foundations of care. Partnerships with governments and communities helped drive action to prevent gender-based violence and harmful practices. Across contexts, the focus remained consistent: delivering quality services, reaching those furthest behind, and ensuring efforts are grounded in survivor-centred, rights-based approaches. At the same time, we continued to invest in the future, supporting more than 60 youth leaders to shape sexual and reproductive health policies and advocate for the rights of their peers at national, regional and global levels.

In humanitarian settings, needs are growing in both scale and complexity. Across Asia and the Pacific UNFPA adapted its approach to meet rising demands. Strengthened preparedness, expanded the use of cash assistance, and kept women and girls at the centre of response efforts, even in the most challenging circumstances.

The year also reminded us of a fundamental truth: demographic change, whether driven by ageing, migration or shifting fertility patterns, is not a crisis in itself. The real challenge is whether people have the freedom, resources and support to make informed choices about their lives. Our work remains firmly anchored in this principle of reproductive agency, ensuring that policies and systems respond to people's realities with dignity and respect.

**The challenges we face demand renewed commitment to multilateralism, stronger partnerships and a relentless focus on impact. They require us to work smarter, invest more strategically and remain steadfast in defending the rights of women and girls, even as pressures intensify.**

UNFPA will continue to rise together with partners, communities and governments in defence of rights and health across Asia and the Pacific. Because when rights are protected and choices are respected, societies are better equipped to move forward with dignity and resilience.

**Dr. Aleksandar (Sasha) Bodiroza**  
Regional Director, a.i.  
UNFPA, Asia and the Pacific

“

**In a world marked by rapid demographic shifts and uncertainty, UNFPA’s work to uphold rights and choices and help countries navigate change is more essential than ever.**

— Ms. Diene Keita, UNFPA Executive Director

# OUR PRESENCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

At its core, UNFPA’s work is about agency: ensuring that people can make informed decisions about their bodies, their lives and their futures and that they can do so in safety and dignity.



In Asia and the Pacific, that imperative plays out against a region of immense diversity and unequal realities, where progress coexists with deep vulnerability. It means reducing preventable maternal deaths, expanding access to family planning, addressing violence against women and girls, and helping countries respond to profound demographic change with policies grounded in rights and evidence.

Across 36 countries, the [UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office](#) (APRO) supports country offices and the [Pacific Sub-Regional Office](#) (PSRO) to turn these goals into practical results. Through data, innovation, technical expertise and partnership, the organization helps strengthen systems, extend the reach of essential services and uphold the rights of women, girls and young people, not only in moments of crisis, but in the longer work of building more just, resilient and inclusive societies.

# IMPACT IN NUMBERS\*

12.5 million

people reached with essential sexual and reproductive health and protection services

20,534

maternal deaths averted

300+

midwives trained from 15 countries, improving maternal and newborn care

\$12 million

allocated from the UNFPA Supplies Partnership Programme for contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines

11

countries supported to improve the quality of comprehensive sexuality education programmes

34 million

people reached through regional strategic campaigns, amplifying UNFPA's voice across Asia and the Pacific

978,000

unintended pregnancies prevented

256,000

unsafe abortions avoided

60+

youth leaders empowered to influence sexual and reproductive health policy

\$8.9 million

mobilized in partnerships to advance reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention, and humanitarian preparedness

16

countries supported to develop gender-based violence response systems to meet the needs of survivors

12

countries that improved violence against women data collection, enabling evidence-based policies



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# PROTECTING MOTHERS, SAFEGUARDING BIRTHS

Across Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA is working with governments to strengthen these foundations, from midwifery and supply chains to data and referral systems. The aim is straightforward: ensure that quality care is available when it is needed, and that no woman is left behind.

**Safe childbirth is not a matter of chance. It depends on systems that function, providers who are trained and supported and services that reach every woman, wherever she lives.**

## Midwives at the heart of care

In 2025, UNFPA APRO significantly advanced investment in the midwifery workforce as a foundation for resilient, high-quality maternal and newborn health systems. Across 24 countries, more than 300 midwives, educators, and health providers were reached through training aligned with international standards, with a strong focus on competency-based education, respectful maternity care, and disability inclusion.

Efforts went beyond training to strengthen regulatory frameworks and support the integration of standardized learning modules into national curricula, ensuring sustainability and scale. Midwives were also equipped to respond to emerging challenges, including climate-related health risks, adolescent pregnancy, and gender-based violence, through newly developed and adapted training programmes.

These investments were reinforced by technical support, regional knowledge sharing, and evidence-based advocacy, positioning midwives at the centre of universal health coverage and primary healthcare systems. Together, these efforts highlight the critical role of midwives in delivering equitable, rights-based care and improving health outcomes for women and newborns across the region.



## Eliminating obstetric fistula

Eliminating obstetric fistula is an [achievable goal](#) in Asia and the Pacific, as countries work to ensure that every woman has access to skilled care during childbirth. Yet thousands of women across the region continue to live with this preventable and deeply traumatic condition.

In 2025, UNFPA strengthened regional capacity for fistula treatment by supporting the assessment and certification of Koohi Goth Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, as a regional Centre of Excellence and Obstetric Fistula Training Institute. This milestone is helping to build a network of skilled surgeons across high-burden countries and expand access to quality repair services.

UNFPA also facilitated the first international training for fistula surgeons in collaboration with the Pakistan Country Office, enabling specialists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal to receive hands-on training at Koohi Goth Hospital. These efforts are contributing to stronger regional collaboration and increasing the availability of life-changing surgical care for women affected by fistula.

## Powering Progress with data

Launched in August 2025, the [State of Asia's Midwifery 2025 Report](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the midwifery workforce across the region and its critical role in improving maternal and newborn health. The report highlights that midwives are central to delivering essential sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn health services and could prevent the majority of maternal and neonatal deaths and stillbirths if adequately supported. It documents important gains in the region since 2000, while underscoring that progress has slowed and significant gaps remain in workforce availability, quality of education and enabling environments. The report calls for sustained investment in midwifery as a proven, cost-effective pathway to save lives, expand access to care and accelerate progress toward the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

## Improving maternal health with better data

UNFPA APRO is helping countries across Asia and the Pacific turn data into better care. By introducing simpler, more accessible tools to assess emergency obstetric and newborn services in countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Timor-Leste, ministries of health are gaining a clearer picture of where systems are working and where they are not.

These efforts supported a broader shift toward embedding data into national policy and planning. In Nepal, data on emergency obstetric and newborn care helped guide decisions at both federal and provincial levels, identifying priority facilities for investment and improving referral systems. This led the Gandaki Provincial Government to commit US\$2.7 million in domestic funding to strengthen maternal and newborn health services. At the regional level, a Public Investment Monitoring Platform covering 18 countries is making financing and programme data more accessible, supporting clearer decision-making and stronger accountability.

## Learning from every death

Alongside this, a strong focus was placed on understanding and reducing persistent maternal and perinatal deaths. UNFPA APRO supported the revitalization of [Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response systems](#) in five countries, strengthening more than 50 national and subnational committees. Through systematic notification, review and response, these committees identified key contributing and preventable factors and implemented targeted actions. By learning from each death, countries are better equipped to prevent future losses and improve outcomes for women and newborns.



# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

For many women and adolescent girls, the course of their lives is shaped by choices they were never able to make. Changing that starts with something simple but powerful: the ability to decide whether, when and with whom to have children. When that decision is supported with information, care and respect, it opens the door to better health, greater opportunity and a more equal future.



**Every woman deserves a safe pregnancy, a happy family and a partner who walks with her every step of the way.**

— Yolanda, 34, Bucoli, Bacau

## Ensuring access to the last mile

UNFPA APRO strengthened access to reproductive health services by improving the availability and delivery of essential commodities and services to underserved populations. Enhanced supply chain systems in countries such as Fiji, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea improved stock visibility and distribution efficiency, increasing the availability of key contraceptives from 64 per cent to 72 per cent and reducing avoidable expiry through better stock management.

These efforts ensured that life-saving reproductive health commodities [reached the last mile](#), particularly in remote and underserved communities. At the same time, targeted investments supported the expansion of service delivery platforms, including through the private sector and workplace settings, extending access to reproductive health information and services to thousands of women and young people who might otherwise be left behind.

## Making resources go further

UNFPA APRO continued to drive efficiency and sustainability in reproductive health programmes by strengthening data systems, financing approaches and national ownership. The use of digital logistics management systems and routine stock reviews enabled countries to make more informed decisions, reduce losses and optimize the use of available resources, including the redistribution of commodities valued at US\$350,000.

At the same time, innovative financing and advocacy efforts supported increased domestic investment in reproductive health, including new budget allocations for family planning and reduced costs through policy reforms such as tax exemptions on contraceptives. By combining stronger data, smarter financing and coordinated stakeholder engagement, these efforts are helping countries build more resilient and cost-effective systems that can sustain access to reproductive health services over the long term.



# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Across Asia and the Pacific, gender-based violence impacts more than one in four women. It is driven by deeply entrenched norms that normalize harm and sustain practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Addressing this requires more than strengthening systems. It demands coordinated action with governments, women's rights organizations and service providers to prevent violence before it occurs, while ensuring survivors can access care that is safe, respectful and centred on their needs. By bridging the gap between global standards and national implementation, UNFPA APRO supported more than 16 countries to strengthen their capacity to deliver dignified, evidence-based care for survivors in line with international standards.

## Combating harmful practices

Harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, remained a central focus of UNFPA APRO's work in 2025, with a strong emphasis on strengthening evidence, policy frameworks and prevention efforts. In Nepal, the regional office supported the National Human Rights Commission to conduct a national enquiry on child marriage, generating actionable, evidence-based recommendations. In Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines, support was provided to develop National Action Plans addressing child marriage, early pregnancy and violence against women and children. Across nine countries, programmes were implemented to prevent harmful practices through context-specific, evidence-driven approaches.

At the regional level, UNFPA APRO and its partners launched the first [Accountability Framework](#) to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) across Southeast and South Asia, alongside a [joint statement](#) condemning its medicalization. Prevention efforts are also being integrated into midwifery training standards, responding to the growing trend of medicalized FGM. In Indonesia, progress includes strengthening national data on prevalence and advancing the implementation of the Roadmap 2030 to end the practice.



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These efforts signal a more integrated approach, linking harmful practices to broader systems addressing violence against women and girls, and reinforcing prevention, protection and response through survivor-centred, rights-based strategies.

## Addressing the emerging threat of technology facilitated gender-based violence

In response to the emerging threat of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), UNFPA APRO improved regional evidence base as well as national capacity to identify and respond to TFGBV through in-depth qualitative studies in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Viet Nam as well virtual training series for staff and partners from 16 countries representing critical sectors such as health, police and justice.

Shaping regional priorities, UNFPA provided technical support for the development and launch of the first regional campaign on TFGBV with a [regional call to action](#) by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to urge Southeast Asian nations to take decisive action against TFGBV.

Another major highlight was the initiation of [Asia Safety Showcase](#) — a collaborative initiative with Australia's eSafety Commission, Asian Development Bank, Digital Rights Foundation and Numun Fund to highlight technological solutions that prioritise privacy over data extraction, accessibility over complexity and lived experience over assumption.

## Driving quality national systems to meet the needs of survivors

UNFPA APRO supported governments across the region to strengthen national systems and policies for preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Through targeted technical assistance, 11 countries developed or reinforced standard operating procedures, national guidelines and legal frameworks, improving the quality and consistency of services delivered through health systems.

Countries including the Philippines, Pakistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, India and Nepal advanced survivor-centred case management systems and training curricula, enabling more coordinated and effective responses. This work is helping to embed survivor-centred approaches within national systems, strengthening both accountability and quality of care.

At the same time, a multi-country initiative in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan introduced tailored case management approaches for married adolescent girls, addressing the distinct risks, barriers and protection needs faced by this often overlooked and underserved group.

## Shaping national and regional investment to advance GBV prevention

Across the region, UNFPA APRO supported 11 countries to strengthen national prevention strategies and programmes, aligning them more closely with global and regional evidence. This included the development of context-specific guidance to address the underlying drivers of gender-based violence, particularly discriminatory social and gender norms. By focusing on these root causes, the guidance sets out a clearer pathway for sustained, long-term change.

This work was reinforced by high-level policy engagement, including UNFPA's technical support to ASEAN in shaping its forthcoming 10-year Regional Plan of Action to end violence against women. Together, these efforts are helping to sharpen prevention approaches and strengthen regional coherence at a time when responses must evolve to keep pace with changing social and technological realities.

## Turning data into evidence

Violence that is not counted is often overlooked. In many places, the true scale of violence against women (VAW) remains hidden, unspoken and unaddressed. UNFPA's flagship [kNOwVAWdata initiative](#), in partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is helping to change that. By supporting the safe, ethical and reliable collection and analysis of VAW data in 12 countries, the initiative is making these realities visible and strengthening the evidence needed to inform better policies and responses.



**When I see a girl choose learning and attaining life skills over marriage, when I hear her say she wants to build her own future, I know we're making a difference.**

— Mukta, Community Mobilization Officer,  
Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2025, humanitarian needs across Asia and the Pacific deepened in both scale and complexity, driven by escalating conflicts, political instability and intensifying climate-related disasters, even as funding cuts constrained response efforts. As the world's most disaster-prone region, this context demands more coordinated, sustained action to protect those most at risk, particularly women and girls.

Against this backdrop, UNFPA remained at the forefront of humanitarian response, delivering life-saving sexual and reproductive health services and strengthening gender-based violence prevention and response in ways that are rapid, inclusive and grounded in local realities. A strong focus on community resilience, preparedness and accountability to affected people ensured that responses were shaped with communities, not just for them, even in the most complex emergencies.

## Delivering rapid and inclusive support

UNFPA APRO responded to

41

disasters and crises in

26

countries

delivering critical services and supplies to people in need.

UNFPA APRO responded to 41 disasters and crises across 26 countries, delivering critical services and supplies to people in need. Through the [Regional Prepositioning Initiative](#), supported by the Government of Australia, prepositioned supplies and kits were rapidly deployed to support emergency responses in countries including Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Notably, 80 per cent of these supplies were distributed within 72 hours of government requests, demonstrating the speed, efficiency, and strategic value of this regional mechanism in an increasingly complex and resource-constrained humanitarian landscape.

## Reaching the most at risk

To expand access to essential health and protection services, UNFPA APRO delivered US\$1.59 million in cash and voucher assistance to 50,060 people across 10 countries.

UNFPA APRO delivered

\$1.59 million

in cash and voucher assistance to

50,060

people in

10

countries

These efforts prioritized women, transgender communities and persons with disabilities, helping to ensure that support reached those most often excluded.

Across all responses, 100 per cent established or strengthened feedback and complaints mechanisms, reinforcing accountability to affected people and UNFPA's commitment to inclusive, responsive, and people-centred programming in challenging operational environments.



## Responding to protracted crises

Beyond acute emergencies, UNFPA APRO continues to respond to protracted crises across Asia and the Pacific. This includes the Rohingya refugee situation affecting Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as ongoing humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, where the Afghan refugee situation remains a significant concern. These contexts are increasingly shaped by shifting political dynamics, prolonged displacement and constrained resources.

In this environment, sustained technical support, strong coordination and close engagement with public and private partners are essential. UNFPA continues to ensure that life-saving sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response remain available to both refugee and host communities, even as needs grow and operational conditions become more complex.



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**The 7.7 magnitude earthquake shattered our homes and lives, but it is we women and girls who carry the heaviest burden.**

— Ni Ni, Mandalay, Myanmar

## Strengthening the humanitarian system

UNFPA continued to strengthen national and regional capacity to deliver integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence programming in emergencies, with a focus on prioritizing the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health in crises. Across 19 countries in Asia and the Pacific, this included expanding the use of cash and voucher assistance, reinforcing accountability to affected people, and improving humanitarian supply chains. These efforts are helping to build stronger systems and more effective responses, enhancing the ability of governments, service providers and humanitarian actors to prepare for and respond to crises.

In parallel, gender-based violence coordination mechanisms were strengthened in 11 countries, with sustained support to high-priority contexts such as Afghanistan and Myanmar.

# INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

## Expanding access and inclusion for young people

Asia and the Pacific is home to more than half the world's young people, making investment in adolescents and youth central to the region's future. Yet too many still face barriers to information, services and opportunity at a critical stage in their lives.

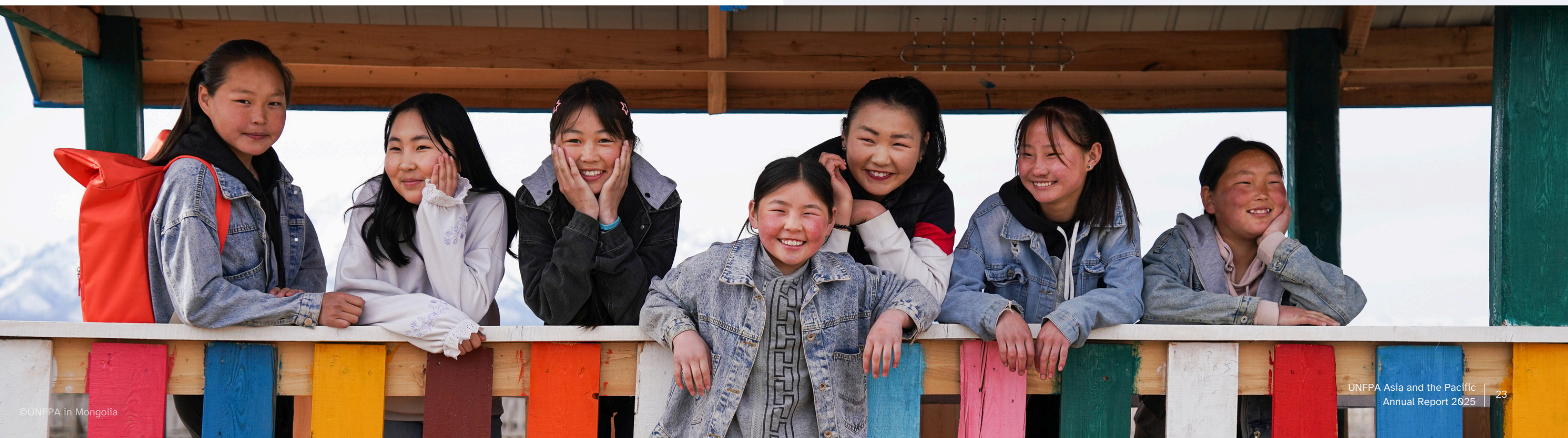
**UNFPA APRO works to expand access to comprehensive sexuality education, essential life skills and youth-responsive health services, enabling young people to make informed choices and navigate a safe and healthy transition to adulthood.**

A growing focus is on inclusion. In partnership with the Youth Peer Education Network ([Y-PEER](#)), UNFPA APRO supported efforts to make comprehensive sexuality education accessible to deaf and hearing-impaired young people in Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal and Pakistan. Working with youth peer networks, deaf associations and schools, training packages were adapted and delivered alongside video podcasts, ensuring that life-saving information reaches those too often excluded from conventional education systems.

## From youth voices to policy and investment

At the same time, UNFPA APRO strengthened youth leadership and participation in regional and global policy processes, ensuring that young people help shape the decisions that affect their lives. Through platforms such as the [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) and the [Commission on Population and Development](#), youth-led advocacy and intergenerational dialogue contributed to five major intergovernmental processes and informed five regional and global outcome documents on health, gender equality and youth empowerment. In total, 22 Member States from the region engaged in these processes, helping to embed youth priorities within national and regional agendas while reinforcing partnerships with civil society and youth networks.

UNFPA APRO also advanced strategic thought leadership to position adolescent girls at the centre of development policy and financing. The publication [Empowering Girls, Securing Futures](#), reframes the issue from a social challenge to a high-return public investment. Its key finding is compelling: scaling up proven interventions in five South-East Asian countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and the Philippines) could generate an estimated US\$10 in returns for every US\$1 invested through 2050. These returns span health, education, productivity and broader economic gains, underscoring that investing in girls is not only a rights imperative, but a smart and necessary strategy for inclusive growth and long-term resilience.



# TURNING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

UNFPA APRO supported countries to translate global human rights commitments into tangible national action through strengthened engagement with mechanisms such as the [Universal Periodic Review](#) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ([CEDAW](#)). In countries including Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand, national human rights institutions were supported to advance accountability on issues such as child marriage, maternal health, reproductive rights and violence against women. This included national inquiries, data generation and policy dialogue that have informed legislative reforms, strengthened monitoring systems and elevated gender-based violence as a national priority.

By linking international recommendations with national advocacy strategies and action plans, these efforts are helping to ensure that commitments to end violence against women and girls lead to measurable change on the ground.

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**By working together, we can build a future where every woman and child lives free from violence and fear.**

— Rattana, Technical Officer, Vientiane, Lao PDR





**I want people to feel safe the moment they walk in. No one should be afraid of going to the doctor.**

— Anjali, Sign Language Facilitator,  
Lumbini Province, Nepal

## **ADVANCING DISABILITY INCLUSION**

UNFPA APRO strengthened its commitment to inclusive sexual and reproductive health services by embedding [disability inclusion](#) within health systems across both development and humanitarian settings. In collaboration with the Burnet Institute, a regional training package on disability-inclusive and respectful maternity care was developed and rolled out. This initiative reached almost 300 midwives, educators and partners across 24 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines, with targeted Training of Trainers conducted in Bhutan and Nepal and additional national engagement in India.

These efforts enhanced healthcare providers' knowledge, attitudes, and practical competencies to better offer accessible and responsive care for pregnant women with disabilities, and including survivors of fistula receive the specialized support they need. The initiative also strengthened regional partnerships while scaling inclusive tools and resources across the region. By integrating disability inclusion into midwifery education and service delivery systems, UNFPA is helping to remove systemic barriers to access and advancing more equitable, self-determined and rights-based care for every woman and girl.

**APRO is also strengthening disability inclusion in data collection to ensure that people with disabilities are fully counted and visible in evidence used to shape policy. This includes analysing the specific experiences of women with disabilities within violence against women surveys, supported by initiatives such as kNOwVAWdata, to better understand risks, barriers and service gaps.**

At the policy level, UNFPA APRO played a key role in shaping the ASEAN [Guidance Note](#) on Disability Inclusion in violence against women policies and programmes, helping to inform more inclusive and responsive regional frameworks.

# POPULATION DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Understanding demographic change is essential for shaping policies that are both forward-looking and grounded in human rights. Across Asia and the Pacific, populations are ageing rapidly in some countries, while others, particularly in the Pacific, continue to have large and growing youth populations. Migration and urbanization are also reshaping how and where people live, work and access services.

UNFPA APRO supports countries to generate and use high-quality population data to respond to these shifts. By strengthening data systems and promoting evidence-based planning, we help governments design more equitable policies, build resilience and advance inclusive, sustainable development.

## Rethinking the fertility crisis

The [2025 State of World Population report](#), *The Real Fertility Crisis: The Pursuit of Reproductive Agency in a Changing World*, marked a shift in how global fertility trends are understood. Rather than focusing on declining birth rates alone, the report highlighted a more fundamental challenge: many people are unable to realize their reproductive intentions.

Drawing on new data from 14 countries, the report found that most people still want children, and often more than they can have, but face significant barriers. These include economic insecurity, the high cost of housing and childcare, limited access to health services, infertility, and persistent gender inequality. For Asia and the Pacific, the findings underscored that the central issue is not population size, but whether women and young people have the rights, support and conditions needed to make free and informed choices related to their families and futures.



## Data that drives decisions

UNFPA APRO strengthened national capacities to generate and use high-quality population and health data, enabling more timely and evidence-based decision-making. Support to the [first digital population census](#) in Lao PDR helped modernize data collection systems, introducing geo-spatial technologies and reinforcing the broader statistical infrastructure. This has improved the availability, accuracy and use of data, helping the government plan more effectively and respond to changing population needs.

# FINANCING RIGHTS AND HEALTH

Traditional financing models have proven insufficient to meet the growing demands of the [ICPD Programme of Action](#), particularly in a context of shrinking resources and rising needs. In response, UNFPA APRO expanded its efforts across Asia and the Pacific to mobilize more sustainable, diversified and innovative sources of funding.

This included strengthening domestic resource mobilization, deepening engagement with the private sector, and exploring new financing approaches to advance sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment. These efforts reflect a broader shift toward more resilient and equitable financing models to sustain progress in a constrained funding environment.

## Leveraging investment and partnerships

UNFPA APRO accelerated efforts to mobilize more sustainable financing for sexual and reproductive health by leveraging innovative partnerships and investment approaches. This included the mobilization of US\$1 million in Islamic social finance to support maternal and newborn health in Indonesia, alongside the development of investment cases and financing mechanisms such as social and impact bonds in countries including India and Bangladesh.

At the regional level, the creation of a [Public Investment Monitoring Platform](#) spanning 18 countries is strengthening the evidence base for financing decisions while improving transparency and accountability. In parallel, targeted advocacy and technical support are helping governments unlock domestic resources and embed reproductive health priorities within national financing frameworks.

In a constrained funding environment, this shift toward more diversified and data-driven financing is not optional. It is essential to sustaining progress and protecting gains in women's health and rights.

## Engaging the private sector

UNFPA APRO deepened engagement with the private sector to expand access to services and unlock new sources of financing. Through the Workplace Access to SRHR programme, partnerships with companies across sectors such as garment, manufacturing and electronics extended services and information to workplaces employing thousands, and in some cases over 100,000 workers.



In parallel, APRO supported the development of business cases and investment tools to demonstrate the return on investment in women's health, resulting in a growing body of country-level evidence and company profiles. A key milestone was the launch of the [Coalition for Reproductive Justice in Business in Asia and the Pacific](#), bringing together companies and partners to drive collective action on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

# WE'RE GRATEFUL.

We thank our donors for the steadfast support towards our work in Asia and the Pacific.

Your support continues to greatly improve the well-being of millions of women and girls across the region.



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