



# BUILDING BACK BETTER

UNFPA Asia and the Pacific  
Highlights

» Annual Report 2021





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## » FOREWORD



**2021 was a challenging year for women, girls and young people in Asia and the Pacific. As the most disaster-prone region in the world, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic intensified pre-existing sexual and reproductive health inequities and jeopardised the trajectory of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals on multiple fronts.**

With disrupted health systems, people who are most vulnerable—including women and girls, conflict-affected people, people with disabilities, young people, key populations, and those living in poverty—experienced unique difficulties in accessing quality sexual and reproductive health services and rights.

Despite these challenges and difficult working conditions, UNFPA across Asia and the Pacific, rose to the challenge by making significant progress towards our transformative results of zero maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against girls and women. We continued to build resilient health systems, and lobby governments to keep their commitments to uphold universal sexual and reproductive health and rights by investing more in long-term social norm change to prevent gender-based violence and in ensuring gender inclusive population policies that are embedded in human rights.

We must not forget the commitments made by Member States and other partners in Asia and the Pacific at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 in November 2019 to prioritize the rights, health, and safety of women, girls, young people, key populations, and people with disabilities, including the recent joint ministerial statement on behalf of 59 countries calling for the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights and promoting gender-responsiveness in the COVID-19 crisis.

These commitments and calls to action continue to serve as guideposts for governments and civil society in our collective efforts to reach the 2030 finish line. They also remind us that the need to invest in accelerating ICPD is greater than ever, that such investments will help strengthen societies and countries, and ensure we can build back better in a post-pandemic Asia and the Pacific, and world.

**Björn Andersson**

Regional Director, UNFPA, Asia and the Pacific

# » 2021 AT A GLANCE



**7** countries developed plans to achieve zero unmet need for family planning by 2040.



**11** countries were supported to conduct censuses.



**7** countries expanded evidence-based interventions to tackle child, early, and forced marriage.



**8** countries strengthened disability inclusion in gender-based violence programming.



**5** innovative projects to improve maternal health and address gender-based violence were piloted and are being implemented.



**62** initiatives from 19 countries on Digital Sexuality Education were created.



**US\$ 60,210,181** in humanitarian funding was received.

**24,103**



women, men, girls and boys affected by 22 emergencies across four countries were provided with life-saving services and supplies under the Regional Prepositioning Initiative.

**200**



people from 16 countries completed modules from the Midwifery Faculty Development programme for midwifery educators.

**250**



250 professionals were trained in disaster preparedness and response, logistics, the Minimum Initial Service Package, and sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in emergencies.





# TOWARDS UNFPA'S TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS

Through our work across the Asia and the Pacific region, we actively contribute towards the three world-changing results set forth by UNFPA for achieving the 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development:

- Zero preventable maternal deaths
- Zero unmet need for family planning
- Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices

While the COVID-19 pandemic has not changed these transformative aspirations, its impact has set back years of progress.

**In 2021, we continued our work even more progressively to ensure access to the sexual and reproductive health services and to uphold the rights of women and girls across the region.**



# TOWARDS ZERO PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS

Dying during pregnancy, childbirth or after delivery has long been a reality for many women in the Asia and the Pacific region.

UNFPA's goal of zero preventable maternal deaths is not only ambitious but achievable if the right investments are made. Despite the setbacks due to the pandemic, we continued to support countries in the region to reduce maternal deaths while prioritizing the most vulnerable women.

In 2021, we:

- Supported 15 countries across the region to develop National Action Plans based on the State of World Midwifery report 2021.
- Disseminated an investment case for maternal health intervention in nine Small Islands and Developing States, aimed at increasing the allocation of domestic resources for sexual and reproductive health.
- Provided technical assistance to countries with modelling, health economics and sustainable sexual and reproductive health financing work, including Afghanistan, Lao PDR, and Bhutan.



- Recognized globally for our work in promoting midwifery, including the flagship UNFPA perinatal mental health course, attended by participants from eight countries.
- Our 'best practice' Faculty Development course for midwifery educators was attended by 200 practitioners from 16 countries.
- The State of the World's Midwifery report was launched and widely disseminated on digital channels, reaching 382,189 viewers in May 2021.
- Developed evidence and guidance on COVID-19 in pregnancy and key messages for health workers, pregnant women and their families, for Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Islands.
- Helped to identify more than 100 members of Parliament from the region who will champion UNFPA's transformative work on ending preventable maternal mortality.
- Commissioned a study on the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights into national universal health coverage schemes in seven countries: Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste.



# TOWARDS ZERO UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Access to safe and voluntary family planning is a fundamental human right.

We have been working tirelessly to turn this into a reality across Asia and the Pacific by providing strategic support to national family planning programmes, advocating for family planning with a rights-based approach and in ensuring universal access to quality services for all.

In 2021, we:

- Partnered with UNFPA country offices and national ministries of health to develop country-specific roadmaps to achieve zero unmet need for family planning by 2030 in seven countries, namely: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste.
- Developed a draft regional framework to promote better access to quality family planning services and information through government partnerships with individual private medical practitioners.



- Developed a web-based return-on-investment (ROI) tool for the private sector, which allows businesses to make projections on the estimated returns on investing in sexual and reproductive health interventions in the workplace—in terms of increased productivity and reduced absenteeism and staff turnover.
- Organized regional knowledge-sharing webinars with UNFPA Country Offices on good practices in family planning programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Worked with UNFPA country offices in Lao PDR and Timor Leste to advocate for greater national ownership of family planning programmes, resulting in both governments committing to increase budgetary allocation for family planning. The Papua New Guinea government also committed to do the same.
- Supported continuity of national and local health systems to provide access to integrated quality sexual and reproductive health, including safe delivery, mental health and psychosocial support, family planning and gender-based violence services.
- Conducted a study to analyse forced and coerced sterilization laws and policies and the lived experience of persons with psycho-social disabilities in the Asia Pacific region to better understand national policies and laws on sterilization, determine what they imply from a human rights perspective, and establish if they are in line with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).





# TOWARDS ZERO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

Gender-based violence and harmful practices continue to affect women and girls across the region.

Determined to achieve our goal of ending violence and harmful practices that bring suffering to women, young people, and their families, we continued to support countries to generate quality data on violence against women and to strengthen programming in violence prevention, mental health and psychosocial support, and in ending child marriage and gender-biased sex selection.

## » ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

### In 2021, we:

- Successfully completed the first phase of kNOwVAWdata, the Australian government-funded initiative that helps to strengthen regional and national capacities to measure the prevalence of violence against women in Asia and the Pacific.
- Were the first UNFPA regional office to conduct the UNFPA Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Assessment with an organization of persons with disabilities, Women Enabled International.
- Carried out a rapid desk review of good practice interventions, mapping and an internal report on programming on mental health and psychosocial support services for adolescents in development settings, which will help strengthen regional and country office programming.
- Developed guidelines for the establishment of hotlines to support survivors of gender-based violence, bringing together relevant standards, information, and regional experiences to support the planning and operation of hotlines in the region.

### The UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office works together with sister UN Agencies to strengthen our collective efforts to address gender-based violence and harmful practices. In 2021, through our inter-agency advocacy, we:

- Participated in inter-ministerial meetings on school health, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), which called for revitalizing health-promoting schools and responding to a call for action on sexual exploitation and abuse in schools.
- Continued to successfully position UNFPA's mandate on gender-based violence prevention and response through active engagement in regional coordination mechanisms, including the UNiTE working group to end violence against women, the working group on gender-based violence in emergencies, the COVID-19 working group, and the gender in humanitarian action group.
- Together with UNICEF, and UNWomen, we organized a session during the Second Regional INSPIRE Conference for the Implementation of INSPIRE Strategies to End Violence Against Children during COVID-19 and beyond, which disseminated global and regional knowledge and practice on the issue.
- Developed a regional campaign with the UNWomen Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, featuring videos from prominent women's rights advocates and civil society leaders
- Partnered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Regional Gender-Based Violence in Emergency Advisory Team (REGA) to conduct a regional orientation on the Inter-agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies programming.



## » ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

In 2021, we:

- Supported seven UNFPA country offices to expand evidence-based interventions to address child, early and forced marriage.
- Supported India and Nepal to provide virtual health and psychosocial support consultations, including support for adolescents facing abuse or child marriage, through helplines, radio and mobile phones.
- Actively supported and engaged in the third ASEAN Regional Forum on Adolescent Pregnancy, Early Union, and Child, Early and Forced Marriage Intergenerational Dialogue on Meaningful Youth Engagement, which was attended by more than 100 participants from 23 countries in the Asia and the Pacific region.

## » GENDER-BIASED SEX SELECTION

In 2021, we:

- Continued advocacy on gender-biased sex selection as an extreme form of gender discrimination and inequality against women that takes place in many countries in the Asia and the Pacific region.
- Supported the UNFPA country offices in Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal and Vietnam with ongoing virtual technical assistance and capacity development to support the roll out evidence-based programming and develop research and policy and advocacy tools to tackle gender-biased sex selection.
- Continued providing technical assistance to country offices to integrate harmful practices and social norms programming in their Country Programme Documents.
- Worked together with governments, civil society, the media, religious institutions and other partners to research the issue, carry out advocacy and policy initiatives, and develop locally-tailored approaches to fight against gender bias.



# 2

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

**Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world.**

**We work with our partners to ensure that gender equality, protection from violence and harmful practices, and women and girls' sexual and reproductive rights are at the heart of humanitarian action.**

In 2021, we:

- Developed standardized content for COVID-19 and pregnancy that were used for IEC materials and mobile apps across the region.
- Developed gender-based violence and mental health and psychosocial support training packages and supported UNFPA country offices and partners in their implementation.
- Supported the roll-out of the Safe Delivery App in seven countries, building skilled birth attendants' capacity to deliver basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care.
- Developed a regional operational guidance on Accountability to Affected Populations.
- Developed case studies to highlight country office best practices on Cash and Voucher Assistance in humanitarian settings.

# » HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE ACROSS THE REGION

**AFGHANISTAN:** Amid one of the world's most complex and protracted crises, UNFPA continues to stay and deliver life-saving SRH and GBV response interventions. For details see the box on Afghanistan.

**BANGLADESH:** UNFPA reached ~70,000 women with SRH services and ~63,000 women with GBV response services, including through 28 safe spaces in Cox's Bazar. ~200,000 people were reached with SRH and GBV information.

**BHUTAN:** 4,300 PPEs were provided and 600 health professionals were trained on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health operational guidelines for COVID-19 response. ~2,700 women and girls received dignity kits.

**INDIA:** 37,000 persons were reached with SRH and GBV information, 50,000 PPE kits were supplied, and 278 adolescent-friendly health services and 338 health facilities were supported as part of COVID-19 response.

**INDONESIA:** In response to COVID-19, an earthquake and flooding, ~8,000 women received SRH services and ~450 received mental health and psychosocial support services. PPE was provided to ~2,800 midwives and GBV frontline workers.

**IRAN:** UNFPA reached ~10,000 older persons aged 65+ with health services and provided PPE to 210 health centres as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, ensuring no one is left behind.

**MALDIVES:** UNFPA adapted the Safe Delivery App to the local context and PPE was provided to SRH and maternal child health staff as part of the pandemic response.

**MYANMAR:** Amid protracted internal crises coupled with frequent hazards and the coup on 1 Feb 2021, UNFPA reached ~41,700 women and adolescents with SRH services, ~12,500 people with family planning services and ~21,600 persons with mental health and psychosocial support services.

**NEPAL:** UNFPA reached over 10 million people by broadcasting COVID-19 risk communication messages through 80 radio stations and 7 TV channels. 478 adolescent kits and ~1,600 dignity kits were distributed in response to COVID-19 and floods.

**VIET NAM:** As part of the flood response, ~65,000 women were reached with sexual and reproductive health services, ~24,000 dignity kits were distributed, and ~32,900 small cash transfers were conducted.

**TIMOR-LESTE:** In response to floods, UNFPA ran 20 mobile health clinics and distributed 840 customized dignity kits to uphold the sexual and reproductive health and rights of affected women and girls.

**SRI LANKA:** UNFPA delivered training programmes on disaster preparedness for senior citizen committee leaders as well as on menstrual health and hygiene for national partners. 2,000 women were reached with SRH services.

**PACIFIC SUB-REGION:** After Cyclone Yasa in Fiji, UNFPA reached ~32,500 women with SRH services, ~11,800 people with family planning services, distributed ~8,700 dignity kits, and supported 9 women and girls safe spaces and 9 mobile health clinics.

**PHILIPPINES:** In response to the conflict in Maguindanao and a typhoon, ~3 million women received SRH services, ~36,800 people received mental health and psychosocial support services, ~4,500 youth-friendly spaces were supported, ~10,000 people received Cash & Voucher Assistance.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** During violent tribal fights, UNFPA assisted 50 safe deliveries through provision of Interagency Reproductive Health Kits, supported 3 women and girls' safe spaces, and distributed ~1,000 customized dignity kits.

**PAKISTAN:** ~60,000 women were reached with SRH services and ~26,000 people were reached with family planning services. ~4,600 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls as part of GBV response services.



## » IN FOCUS: Response in Afghanistan

Women's and girls' rights and opportunities have been increasingly restricted in Afghanistan, especially since August 2021, and access to reproductive health and protection services has been diminished.

Despite the challenging humanitarian environment, UNFPA was able to provide life-saving services to over a quarter of a million women and their families in 2021, including those who live in remote areas and are internally displaced.

**We supported the UNFPA Afghanistan Country Office to provide life-saving services through the establishment of 172 Family Health Houses, 81 Protection and Psychosocial Support Facilities, 23 Mobile Health Teams and 4 Emergency Clinics. We also supported in the procurement of 399 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits.**

Through these facilities, UNFPA reached 266,346 women and young people with life-saving services.



## » IN FOCUS: Regional Prepositioning Initiative

Since 2015, the UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office manages the Regional Prepositioning Initiative in partnership with the Government of Australia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a flagship programme to strengthen preparedness and build resilience in the most disaster-prone countries.

The Initiative supports governments and stakeholders to meet the life-saving needs of women and girls in humanitarian crises through policy advocacy, capacity building and prepositioning of essential supplies such as reproductive health kits, dignity kits and tents.

**In 2021, the Initiative reached 24,103 direct beneficiaries (22,312 women and 1,791 men, including an estimated 966 persons with disabilities) with more than US\$ 281,395 worth of supplies in 22 emergencies across four countries.**







» 3

# INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE »

**Young people are often touted as the future of nations, and how well they navigate their adolescence will determine not only the course of their own lives, but that of the world.**

**Yet, too many youth are unable to participate fully in society. Youth leadership is important to UNFPA as it ensures young people can take charge of their lives and well-being, and make informed decisions about life-changing matters.**

In 2021, we:

- Launched a joint United Nations report on Young People and the Law, which examined legal and policy barriers to young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Published the 'My Body is My Body, My Life is My Life' report, a review of the current status of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia and the Pacific and elaboration of key priorities to support informed policy, programming and advocacy.
- Hosted a webinar on monitoring youth policies, contributing to an active exchange of lessons learned and achievements among country offices, with Viet Nam, Pakistan, Indonesia and LAO PDR sharing their experiences.
- Technically supported the ASEAN Secretariat to develop the ASEAN work plan on youth for 2021-2025. This increased ASEAN focus on youth programming and youth-related indicators, strengthening Member States' commitments to youth policy and programming.
- Supported three country offices to survey the implementation of youth-related policies.

## » SEXUALITY EDUCATION

**Comprehensive sexuality education enables young people to protect and advocate for their health, well-being and dignity. It ensures young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about their body and rights.**

In 2021, we:

- Launched 'LEARN. PROTECT. RESPECT. EMPOWER. The Status of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Asia and the Pacific', a joint report by UNFPA, UNESCO and IPPF that revealed gaps in CSE implementation and provided practical recommendations.
- Initiated a learning session with the Pakistan Country Office on CSE mainstreaming in the formal education system in Islamic countries, while national partners in Bhutan, China, and Nepal were supported to strengthen the quality of in-school CSE, in accordance with international standards.
- Further strengthened UNFPA APRO's partnership with Advocates for Youth, helping to adapt additional AMAZE.org sexuality education videos for the Asia and the Pacific context, including Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Nepal.
- Together with an inter-agency working group led by UNFPA Indonesia, virtually convened DESIRE 2021, a digital sexuality education conference in Asia-Pacific.

## » YOUTH LEADERSHIP

**Promoting youth leadership and participation is key to UNFPA's work. Our efforts enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world.**

In 2021, we:

- Supported the United Network of Young Peacebuilders to implement an advocacy training programme with 14 young people from eight countries in the region successfully completing and forming the Asia Youth Advocacy Team on Youth, Peace and Security.
- Launched, together with Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER), a systemic capacity building of a new generation of youth ICPD advocates, with activities due to start in early 2022.
- Hosted, with Y-PEER and APDA, the virtual Asia and the Pacific Intergenerational Dialogue with Parliamentarians and Youth. The dialogue, which was attended by more than 100 participants from 23 countries, will be held every year to advocate for an increase in the number of youth engagement mechanisms at the national level.
- Compiled and disseminated, together with the Y-PEER Asia Pacific Centre, adolescent and youth-friendly service information for the COVID-19 context. A web portal was launched with information on COVID-19 helplines, mental health and psychosocial support, and sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services.



4

# POPULATION DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Accurate, up-to-date, and relevant population data is critical for effective programming and ensuring that sexual and reproductive health and rights remain at the very centre of development in Asia and the Pacific.**

In 2021, we:

- Supported 11 UNFPA offices in the region (Bangladesh, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, Pacific, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam) to carry out population censuses.
- Contributed to the mid-term review of the Asia and the Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015-24) through a regional study on vital statistics with case studies from Indonesia, Lao PDR and Pakistan.
- Mapped the availability and use of data on persons with disabilities to inform the development of activities that will strengthen disability data.
- Assessed the knowledge and capacity of key stakeholders in the region to collect and analyze disability data.

## » IN FOCUS: #ForEveryAge regional advocacy

**Asia and the Pacific is the most rapidly aging region in the world. By 2050, a quarter of people will be over 60 years old or more. This seismic demographic shift means that governments need to find ways of caring adequately for the elderly.**

While there is no single comprehensive policy to address population ageing, there is an urgent need to adapt a life-cycle approach with gender equality at its core. It is by investing in each stage of life, starting from before a girl's birth to her childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, that women—and entire countries—will be able to enjoy healthy and active ageing.

This was the rationale behind UNFPA's regional advocacy campaign #ForEveryAge launched on International Day of Older Persons 2021. The campaign underscored the need for rights-based life-cycle policies to transform perceived demographic challenges into opportunities for all, and was delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat.





## » IN FOCUS: National Transfer Accounts

**The ratio of those with advanced age in the Asia and the Pacific region is set to continue growing at a fast rate. With it comes the reality that working adults will need to support an ever-increasing number of older people.**

To respond to the social protection needs of a rapidly ageing population and promote economic growth, UNFPA advocates for National Transfer Accounts, a policy planning tool that gives insights on how populations at each age produce, consume, save and share resources, which is crucial for nations to address economic inequality.

In 2021, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office hosted a virtual three-day meeting bringing together multiple stakeholders from across 20 countries in the region to share updates and learn from their progress in using National Transfer Accounts.





5

# INNOVATIONS TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

**As the world continues to evolve and change at a fast speed, we work to create and implement innovative solutions to deliver on our three transformative results to empower women and girls across Asia and the Pacific.**

In 2021, we:

- Supported the pilot, Mandukhai, an artificial intelligent (AI) chatbot in Mongolia that bridges distance and cultural taboos to deliver 24/7 advice to Mongolia girls.
- Helped to develop an AI-powered tool in the Philippines that scours social media feeds in publicly available Twitter and Facebook posts to track what people are concerned about so that public health messages can connect with the women and girls who need them most.
- Supported the scale up of the Virtual Reality Midwifery Training initiative in Timor-Leste to a full training programme.
- Supported the development of an app in Bangladesh to streamline transportation and urgent referral options for pregnant women in informal settlements and improve the transfer of critical information to health care providers from the community.
- Helped China to implement a pilot project on comprehensive sexuality education which delivered an 8-session live-streamed course and followed international guidelines.

## » IN FOCUS: BILUM CAMPAIGN IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Bilums, a key cultural symbol in Papua New Guinea, are traditional tote bags woven from wool, animal fur or vines. They are multi-functional, with people using them to carry items in everyday life, as fashion accessories, or as stretchers to carry the sick. Bilum also revisits the traditional role of women and reproductive health through its iconic strings and woven patterns.**

In 2021, UNFPA Papua New Guinea launched the Bilum Campaign to leverage the wisdom and culture of Papua New Guinea's women and to mobilize support for investments in a strong primary health and education sector that prioritizes reproductive health services and information.

We supported the country office in widely disseminating the campaign with key internal and external audiences. The campaign also won the 'Innovation for Impact' Award at the UNFPA Global Innovation Award Ceremony 2021.



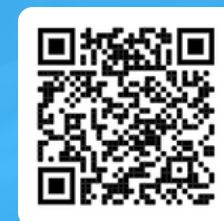


## » IN FOCUS: Innovations for Equality

The UNFPA Innovation Fund has investments under four innovation thematic priorities—digital health, sexual and reproductive health commodities, data, and innovative finance.

The Fund supports small-to-medium innovative ventures which test, rapidly prototype, pilot, and transition to scale new solutions through the Innovation Pipeline, alongside big signature initiatives to create “global goods” for the development community on a wider scale.

**‘Innovations for Equality’ is a collection of stories from across the Asia Pacific region that illustrates how UNFPA and our partners are innovating to meet the needs of women, girls and the most vulnerable.**







6

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

**A key cornerstone of all UNFPA-supported programmes and services is that we reach the most marginalized and vulnerable communities, including those with disabilities and key populations, to ensure our efforts are inclusive, universal, and provide access to services and uphold rights for all.**

In 2021, we:

- Provided technical support to eight UNFPA country offices to strengthen disability inclusion in gender-based violence programming.
- Developed a training package, together with the UNFPA China Country Office, Women Enabled International and Rehabilitation International, on rights of women and young persons with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health and protection against gender-based violence, which will be used by UNFPA globally.
- Conducted community-based consultations on the impact of COVID-19 on the exercise of rights for and well-being of women and girls with disabilities in the region to ensure that policies and practices are inclusive of women and girls with disabilities and their rights are promoted even during crises.
- Worked with UNESCO and IPPF on adapting comprehensive sexuality education for different groups of young people, starting with young people with disabilities and young LGBTI people.

- Organized, together with UNWomen and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a session on gender-responsive climate action during the Asia Pacific Climate Week.
- Led a session, in collaboration with UNWomen, on enhancing accountability and effectiveness of humanitarian logistics through a protection, gender and inclusion lens during the ASEAN Humanitarian and Emergency Logistics Innovation Expo.
- Conducted a review of the mental health and forced and/or coerced sterilization laws and policies in the Asia Pacific Region. Plans are underway for the study to be launched at the International Conference on Family Planning in 2022.



## » IN FOCUS: RIGHT TO EQUALITY

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the principles of Equality and Non-Discrimination have been at the heart of the United Nations' efforts to protect and promote human rights around the world.

Through the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group, chaired by OHCHR and UNFPA, we jointly delivered the campaign 'Right to Equality', launched on Human Rights Day.

**The powerful series of videos share the faces, the voices and the people across Asia and the Pacific, all together saying in one voice: We are #AllHumanAllEqual**





» 7

# PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION »

**During a year of global economic turmoil owing to the COVID-19 crisis, UNFPA's partner support base across the region, remained steadfast. Throughout the year, we have continued to develop strategic partnerships that bring unique expertise, innovation, resources and networks to contribute towards the implementation of the ICPD agenda.**

In 2021, UNFPA's total investment in Asia and Pacific was approximately US\$ 220 million. This included an investment of US\$ 70 million in core resources and US\$ 150 million received in earmarked non-core contributions from donors. This investment enabled UNFPA to play a critical role in both humanitarian and development settings across the region.

Going forward, UNFPA will continue to collaborate with a broad partner base for the achievement of the three zeroes. The focus of our approach will be to identify more impactful modes of engagement that can influence policies and business strategies.

**We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors for the continued support towards our work in the region. Your support has contributed towards a positive change in the lives of millions of women and girls across Asia and the Pacific.**



In line with the Corporate Strategic Partnerships Framework, in Asia and the Pacific, we have pursued four types of partnerships:

- Reach to galvanize broad endorsement and visibility of UNFPA as the leading UN agency working to uphold universal sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Resource mobilization to cultivate a robust and differentiated portfolio of donors supporting UNFPA's programmes and contributing to organizational sustainability.
- Brainpower to back UNFPA with a network of partners who enhance operational capacity by delivering or contributing to innovative solutions.
- Alliances to continuously expand government and public support.

## » IN FOCUS: Private sector partnerships

We supported UNFPA Sri Lanka in its partnership with Colombo Fashion Week 2021 and designer Amilani Perera to raise awareness of gender-based violence. The fashion collection 'With Her' centered around intimate partner violence and featured handwork by survivors of violence in women shelters. It aimed to raise awareness among the apparel industry on the social responsibility to provide care towards survivors of violence.



We supported UNFPA Mongolia and Unitel Group, a Mongolian telecommunication company in their partnership to support a new online service for adolescent girls, especially from nomadic families, to ease their access to sexual and reproductive health counseling and services.



We supported Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, a company based in Japan, in its partnership with UNFPA Bhutan to provide access for every eligible girl and woman to HPV testing services and to reach an estimated 70 per cent of screening coverage. UNFPA has been a key strategic partner in enhancing the reach and quality of health services, working closely with the government and other stakeholders in Bhutan.



# 8 WAY FORWARD

The COVID-19 pandemic and other crises in Asia and the Pacific have drastically impacted the ability of countries to reduce poverty and improve the lives of its people. However, in every disaster lies an opportunity to build back better and strengthen decimated social services and systems that hold the key to a better life for many.

The region needs large investments and a renewed focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized population groups, including young people, key populations, the elderly, urban dwellers and people with disabilities, to accelerate the achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action, put countries back on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that women and girls have universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**Moving forward, and in line with the new strategic plan for 2022-2025, the new UNFPA regional programme in Asia and the Pacific will build on its leadership in sexual and reproductive health and rights including midwifery and family planning; strengthen approaches to prevention and response to gender based violence; enhance efforts for domestic financing for the ICPD agenda; guide implementation of a life cycle approach to population aging; and build national capacity in population data generation, analysis and use, while applying innovative technologies.**

Action to achieve the three transformative results in the region will be accelerated by leveraging broad-based partnerships and linking research and innovation to policy and programming. Given the diversity of Asia and the Pacific region, our regional programme will also provide country-specific technical and policy advice and embrace integrated approaches across humanitarian, development, conflict and post-conflict contexts.

**Together, we will build back better.**





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

**United Nations Population Fund  
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