



# TRANSFORMING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**  
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific





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## MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office annual report for 2022. We started the year at full steam to make sure that the first year of the implementation of the regional programme was well on course and that we are accelerating results for women and girls.

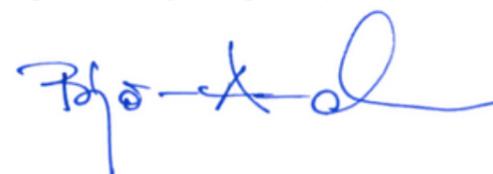
The principles of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) are more relevant than ever in Asia and the Pacific, to accelerate progress towards ending maternal mortality, ensuring access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services and information, and in ending gender-based violence and harmful practices.

Our region, Asia and the Pacific, is home to more than half of the world's 8 billion population. Changing demographic trends, characterized by overall lower fertility and mortality rates, as well as rapid urbanization and migration pose challenges and opportunities. Our focus on addressing these issues remains steadfast so that women, girls and young people can access inclusive and quality sexual and reproductive health and rights and that they can exercise their rights and their choices are fulfilled.

In 2022, we picked up the pace and made headway in many areas, helping organize the International Conference of Family Planning in Thailand, responding to 45 major humanitarian disasters, launching a regional advocacy campaign to raise awareness on addressing gender-based violence, supporting efforts to upskill midwives, engaging in value-based dialogues with community members and stakeholders to co-create pathways to reduce harmful practices and social norms, and more.

**I welcome you to read about our 2022 achievements in this report. These results would not have been possible without the collaboration of our many partners and the great generosity from our donors.**

A better tomorrow begins with our actions today. Together, let us work to transform the future, and create a better region and world for women, girls and young people.



**Björn Andersson**  
UNFPA Regional Director

# SNAPSHOT OF RESULTS FROM 2022



15 countries improved the competencies of midwives and midwifery educators through a Midwifery Faculty Development programme and continuing professional development courses.



5 countries developed road maps to achieve zero unmet need for family planning.



14 countries enhanced their preparedness to coordinate gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian emergencies.



3 countries were able to implement programmes that address gender-biased sex selection and child marriage.



16 countries built the capacity of service providers and other national partners to integrate sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in humanitarian programming.



60 young people from 15 countries voiced their opinions on what a world of 8 billion means to them through art in partnership with the Y-PEER Asia Pacific Centre.



32 countries implemented the UNFPA guidelines for sexual and reproductive health and GBV services for women and young people with disabilities.



110 innovations from across the region were showcased at a regional innovation fair.



36,272 people in nine countries were reached with US\$581,676 worth of supplies through the Regional Prepositioning Initiative, strengthening preparedness and resilience in the most disaster-prone countries in the region.



US\$200 million were mobilized in non-core income by UNFPA in Asia and the Pacific.

# 1 TRANSFORMING LIVES



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**UNFPA's work across the Asia and the Pacific region is guided by three transformative results fundamental to sexual and reproductive health, and to human rights and well-being.**

By 2030, with its partners, we aim to:

- End preventable maternal deaths
- End unmet need for family planning
- End gender-based violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child marriage

All three transformative results are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the landmark 1994 Programme of Action of the ICPD and its follow-up 2019 voluntary Nairobi Summit commitments.

In 2022, we continued to provide technical support, policy advice, guidance, and capacity building to 36 countries and territories in the Asia and Pacific region and position the ICPD agenda at the forefront of strategies, policies and dialogue in the region. As always, we prioritized the needs of people left furthest behind – particularly the most vulnerable women, girls and young people, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people.





©UNFPA Lao PDR

## ➤ ENDING MATERNAL DEATHS

The act of bringing life into the world should never end in death. However, maternal mortality is still a tragic reality in many countries in the region, as progress in ending maternal deaths remains uneven and limited. Mothers continue dying from pregnancy-related complications and due to a lack of access to quality maternal health care.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific remains committed to the goal of zero preventable maternal deaths and has doubled its efforts to ensure that no lives are lost during pregnancy, childbirth and after birth.

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- Midwifery associations and midwifery and nursing councils in 15 countries worked on maintaining the competencies of practicing midwives through improved continuing professional development courses.
- A Midwifery Faculty Development Programme for midwifery educators from 20 countries was developed and delivered, both virtually and in person, aimed at improving the delivery of quality midwifery education programmes.
- Midwives and health workers from Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, and Pakistan were trained in emergency obstetric and newborn care and service provision, including as part of emergency and humanitarian response activities.
- Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea were supported to review the current status of their health management information systems, with the aim of improving the collection, analysis and utilization of key sexual, reproductive, maternal and adolescent health data. The collection and analysis of these critical data is the basis of improved planning and delivery of high quality health services.
- Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) situational analysis reports were completed in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea to understand gaps and challenges in the review and response to maternal deaths in these countries, and identify MPDSR improvement plans.



## ➤ ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Access to voluntary family planning services averts unintended pregnancies and reduces demand for and the cost of maternal and other health services. But in many countries in Asia and the Pacific, the use of modern contraception and the unmet need for family planning have remained stagnant and affected by supply chain disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific's commitment to ending unmet need for family planning in the region is supported by transformative policies, plans and programmes.

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- The international scientific and advocacy community, policy makers and young people gathered in Pattaya, Thailand, from 14 to 17 November 2022 for the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), which set forth a platform to ensure the world achieves universal access to family planning by 2030.
- The health ministries in Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, The Philippines, and Sri Lanka developed country-specific road maps to achieve zero unmet need for family planning by 2030, in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.
- India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines and Viet Nam made government commitments towards the Family Planning 2030 targets, with a focus on expanding access and contraceptive choices, especially for vulnerable groups like adolescents.
- Thirty-five participants from the health ministries, partners and UNFPA country offices in 12 countries participated in an international training programme on family planning and reproductive health commodity security through an ongoing partnership with IHMR University in India.



## FINANCING FOR THE ICPD AGENDA

UNFPA Asia-Pacific remains committed to ensuring sustainable financing of the ICPD agenda through greater reliance on domestic public and private resources.

In 2022, UNFPA continued collaborating with governments and the private sector to finance and leverage complementary resources for the three transformative results. This included developing country-specific investment cases and impact modelling aiming to increase domestic resource mobilization and ensuring sufficient public budget allocations and spending for sexual and reproductive health services. UNFPA also supported the development of two new investment cases for The Philippines and Mongolia country offices, while advocacy efforts continued in Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Lao PDR using the respective investment cases to highlight the economic returns of investing in women and adolescents' health.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific also supported country offices with health economics modelling work. In 2022, the Sri Lanka country office analysed the impacts of the socio-economic crisis on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and The Philippines country office modelled the results of the UNFPA-supported humanitarian response for Typhoon Odette. With UNFPA support, Bhutan was able to set targets for maternal mortality in the new national strategic plans, and UNFPA Afghanistan modelled the potential impact of health facility closure in 2023.

To expand and leverage strategic partnerships with the private sector, the Return-on-Investment Tool, 'Invest on Her', was launched at the 2022 ICFP. The tool was developed by UNFPA Asia-Pacific to help businesses and companies understand the potential impact of implementing different health or health-related programmes for their workforce.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific continued working with parliamentarians in the region to communicate key concepts related to the financing of sexual and reproductive health and rights and highlight the importance of financing sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes. One in-person training for parliamentarians was organized in October 2022 in The Philippines, attended by participants from eight countries in the region.



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## ➤ ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

In Asia and the Pacific, women and girls continue to experience violence because of their gender, including in humanitarian emergencies and post-conflict settings. UNFPA remains undeterred in its work to protect them and end gender-based violence and harmful practices. A key focus is supporting countries in the region to safely generate national data on violence against women, which can inform the development of evidence-based programmes to promote and protect women's rights.

### ➤➤ ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

#### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- In partnership with the University of Melbourne, social work curricula in the region were mapped to better understand how gender-based violence as a topic was covered.
- A capacity-building initiative was launched in 14 countries to enhance country-level preparedness for the coordination of gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian emergencies. In addition, UNFPA Asia-Pacific dedicated technical support to the coordination of gender-based violence programmes in countries facing humanitarian emergencies such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and The Philippines.
- The capacity of UNFPA country offices was built to strengthen the health sector's response to gender-based violence with the most updated global guidelines and resources.
- Nine virtual learning sessions were held for UNFPA country offices on gender-based violence in emergencies preparedness, cash and voucher assistance, and gender-based violence information management systems.
- Country offices in the region continued to conduct surveys on violence against women (VAW) and use the findings for policy advocacy and evidence-informed programming as part of UNFPA Asia-Pacific's flagship 'kNOwVAWdata' initiative.



## » ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- Knowledge products on child marriage and other harmful practices were developed under the framework of the UNFPA and UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. These included the start of a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child marriage, the Big Data Study on Harmful Practices, and the South Asia Child Marriage profile.
- Gender transformative programming in country programme design and implementation was strengthened in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Adolescents were also engaged in research design and analysis while stakeholder engagement was bolstered through regional platforms such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
- A donor visit to India was organized for the steering committee members of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage to witness key interventions and achievements and learn from national, state and district stakeholders.
- Regional south-south collaboration was reinforced and good practices exchanged between Bangladesh, Nepal, Viet Nam, India, and China in addressing gender-biased sex selection and son preference through a regional consultation workshop. A programme proposal was developed at regional level to mobilize funds for new phase of the gender-biased sex selection programme from 2023 to 2026.
- Ten countries (Afghanistan, China, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, The Philippines, Timor Leste) were also supported to coordinate planning on the Value-based Dialogue (VBD) initiative and roll out VBD programming in 2023 by building the capacities of the country offices to augment movements for social and gender norm change in the region.



## Addressing son preference, the undervaluing of girls, and gender-biased sex selection

In an effort to foster concerted action to address son preference and gender-biased sex selection, UNFPA organized a policy dialogue with decision-makers, experts, and civil society representatives from eight countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Georgia, India, Nepal, and Viet Nam). The workshop, which took place in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in October, also saw the participation of ambassadors and representatives from Australia, Canada, Norway, and Sweden. Participants also visited the Bac Giang province to learn how the Viet Nam Farmers' Union is tackling gender-biased sex selection through the Fatherhood Programme, a UNFPA-supported innovative strategy to engage young men in building healthy family relationships.

## Campaign: Respect & Empower

To advocate for increased investments in responding to and preventing gender-based violence, UNFPA Asia-Pacific launched a regional advocacy campaign titled 'Respect and Empower' from 2022 to 2025. The campaign aims to ensure that survivors of violence receive comprehensive and integrated services, including health, legal, psychosocial, and social services, so that they can live a life of dignity, respect, and empowerment. A series of videos were launched, providing a glimpse into the day in the life of gender-based violence providers.



# 2

## HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Every year, millions of people in the Asia Pacific region are affected by earthquakes, tropical storms, floods, droughts, and conflict. Disasters have become more frequent due to climate change, economic and political vulnerability and limited capacity to manage humanitarian emergencies in the region.

UNFPA in Asia and the Pacific implements efficient, quality and inclusive emergency responses to ensure that the reproductive health and women and girls' protection needs are addressed before, during and after a crisis.

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- 18 UNFPA country offices responded to 45 disasters, and major humanitarian responses were launched for Super Typhoon Rai in The Philippines, the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, and floods in Pakistan. UNFPA scaled up life-saving activities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar to respond to the protracted crises in those countries.
- 2,183 UNFPA staff and national partners were trained on humanitarian preparedness and resilience building, gender-based violence in emergency coordination, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence integration, accountability to affected populations, cash and voucher assistance, clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence, menstrual health and hygiene in emergencies, the minimal initial service package for sexual and reproductive health, supply chain management, geospatial data, and young people's engagement in humanitarian response.
- 13 communications products such as op-eds, feature stories, and photo-stories were developed to raise awareness and take action on important emerging humanitarian issues through international days for menstrual hygiene, people with disabilities, 16 Days of Activism, and World Humanitarian Day.
- 11 knowledge products were developed to advance humanitarian action, including an Asia-Pacific donor brief on cash and voucher assistance, case studies on cash and voucher assistance from The Philippines and Bangladesh, a sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence integration framework, an advocacy document on sexual and reproductive health in emergencies, and a skills-building package for accountability to affected populations.

A woman wearing a blue headscarf is shown in profile, looking out a window. The background is a blurred view of a building with windows, suggesting an urban setting. The lighting is soft, coming from the window, highlighting the texture of her headscarf.

## COUNTRY FOCUS: AFGHANISTAN

Following the Taliban takeover in 2021, UNFPA put in place a life-saving humanitarian emergency response for the crisis-affected people of Afghanistan, specifically for women and girls.

In 2022, more than 4 million people were reached with life-saving assistance through family health houses, mobile health teams, youth health corners, women-friendly health spaces and other service delivery points in all 31 provinces of Afghanistan.



## COUNTRY FOCUS: PAKISTAN

To respond to the devastating monsoon floods in Pakistan in 2022, which displaced 4.5 million people, the UNFPA country office provided life-saving sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risk mitigation and response services.

Between September 2022 and January 2023, 114,261 women and girls were reached with sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, 31,618 pregnant women received antenatal care, and 5,604 deliveries were attended by skilled birth attendants.

In addition, 23,433 people benefitted from family planning commodities and 47,674 people were made aware of the importance of sexual and reproductive health care and family planning.

## COUNTRY FOCUS: INDONESIA

Two days after a 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit Cianjur in West Java province on 21 November 2022, a UNFPA-supported reproductive health tent was set up by the Ministry of Health in partnership with members of the reproductive health sub-cluster.

Within the first nine days of operation, six babies were safely delivered and numerous women accessed reproductive health services and counseling provided by the Indonesian Midwives Association.





# STA. MONICA HEALTH CENTER

## COUNTRY FOCUS: THE PHILIPPINES

In the aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette/Rai and Tropical Storm Megi in 2022, which affected around 13 million people, UNFPA was able to reach 215,135 people through the provision of essential gender-responsive services.

This included repairs to 17 rural health facilities, establishment of emergency maternity tent facilities and women-friendly spaces, deployment of mobile health services, and provision of cash for protection and supplies such as dignity kits, solar lamps and radios.

RURAL HEALTH UNIT  
Sta. Monica, Surigao Del Norte  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER & BIRTHING FACILITY





## Campaign: Dignity & Disasters

As the climate crisis intensifies, the rights, safety, and dignity of women and girls need to be at the forefront of humanitarian action. To advocate for greater investments in inclusive and gender-responsive and transformative climate action, UNFPA and the Australian government launched a regional advocacy campaign featuring a collection of stories and portraits that celebrate humanitarian workers responding to the consequences of climate change in the world's most crisis-prone region, Asia and the Pacific.

## Regional Prepositioning Initiative

UNFPA Asia-Pacific, in partnership with the Australian government, has been managing the flagship programme 'Regional Prepositioning Initiative', which strengthens preparedness and builds 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 2022, the initiative reached 36,272 people, including 1,007 people with disabilities, with more than US\$581,676 worth of supplies in 33 emergencies across nine countries.





# YOUNG PEOPLE



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**Giving young people leadership skills and experiences, as well as access to comprehensive sexuality education, is key to helping them become change agents in their communities. UNFPA Asia-Pacific conducts regional advocacy and supports country offices to implement initiatives that strengthen young people's ability to advance their rights and potential.**

## IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- Youth leadership was strengthened through a regional platform called ASIA Youth Advocacy Team, launched for young peacebuilders from six countries. Y-PEER also launched a regional platform for sexual and reproductive health peer educators and mental health advocates.
- A regional intergenerational dialogue was hosted between parliamentarians and young people. The meeting focused on issues faced by young people during COVID-19 and provided a forum for parliamentarians to hear the lived experience of young people from across the region.
- As the world's population reached 8 billion, the Y-PEER Asia Pacific Centre engaged 60 young people from 15 countries in Asia to collect their voices on what a world of 8 billion people means to them. The project also included partnering with Thai artist Supis Nui who joined the discussions with youth to turn their conversations into a striking art piece, which was featured during the 8-billion side event at the ICFP in Pattaya, Thailand.
- The Second Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Development Index (YDI) was finalized and presented to ASEAN for endorsement. YDI measures regional youth development based on selected domains such as education, youth development, employment and health and well-being that are important to all ASEAN Member States.
- Several countries were able to strengthen their comprehensive sexuality education programmes. India mapped their national school health and wellness curriculum against international standards, Pakistan mapped disability inclusive comprehensive sexuality education resources, and Nepal conducted an evaluation of the quality of comprehensive sexuality education in schools. The digital sexuality education regional content creator community has 70 active members from 12 countries in the region who were supported to strengthen digital sexuality education in the region.



## Commemorating a world of 8 billion through art

On 15 November 2022, the world's population reached 8 billion people. To commemorate this historic moment, young people from Asia came together to send a message to the world through art. Thai artist, Supis Nui, collected those voices to create this painting in consultation with the young people.

The message from young people to the world is loud and clear: "The choice is ours." Living in a world challenged by hunger, war, inequality, lack of education, and suppression of freedoms, an inclusive world that embraces diversity, upholds rights and choices, protects the environment, and fosters innovation and intergenerational exchange can be created by individual and collective action.



# 4

## POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



©UNFPA Viet Nam

Asia and the Pacific is home to more than half of the world's 8 billion population. Population data is critical for government planning and budgeting, enabling countries to develop and implement targeted and effective development programmes.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific supports the generation of population data in the region through various data collection tools and advocates for evidence-informed sexual and reproductive health programmes.

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- Census-related activities were supported in Iran, Laos, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. Different stages of census processes were advised on, based on individual country needs and circumstances. UNFPA also continued to be involved in regional work on strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems, along with regional partners.
- Evidence on National Transfer Accounts (NTA) was generated to enhance policy development in the region while findings on the demographic dividend and NTA for 26 countries in the region were presented at the International Conference on Family Planning held in Pattaya, Thailand.
- Ten case studies were produced in close partnership with HelpAge International on population policies adopting the life-cycle approach to ageing, which will serve as an implementation guide for countries in the region.
- Discussions were held on population policies in the context of low fertility by compiling case studies from India, Iran, China and Viet Nam, which greatly contributed to the success of the Global Symposium on Population Ageing and Low Fertility in Seoul, as well as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging review process.
- Six countries were supported to explicitly integrate demographic dynamics into national development plans. China, Iran, and Bhutan used information platforms to facilitate communications on potential solutions to population ageing and low fertility.

## Campaign: #ForEveryAge

Continuing UNFPA's multi-year regional advocacy campaign, #ForEveryAge, in 2022, UNFPA Asia-Pacific, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, jointly launched a photo exhibition titled '#ForEveryAge of Her Life'.

The exhibition, launched on the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October 2022, in Tokyo, Japan, explained the life-cycle approach through 10 photos showcasing the crucial stage through the journey of a woman's life and the need to ensure investments are made at each stage of her life.

The photo exhibition was also displayed at the International Conference on Family Planning, held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 14 to 17 November.

© UNFPA Tokyo / Global Fest




国連人口基金 アジア太平洋地域事務所  
旅する写真展 東京・日本

# #ForEveryAge of HER LIFE

すべての世代の彼女のために

アジア太平洋地域は、世界で最も急速に高齢化が進んでいる地域です。2050年には、4人に1人が60歳以上となり、そのほとんどが女性です。各国は、少子高齢化に対応するために、女性や少女たちの権利や選択を中心に据えつつ、人生のすべてのステージに必要な支援をするライフサイクルアプローチが求められています。誕生から幼年期、青年期、成人期までの女性の人生のすべてのステージに必要な支援をすることで、その女性だけではなく、地域社会、そして国全体が健康で活動的な高齢化を享受することができる、という考えです。この写真展では、女性の人生の節目となる各々のステージを巡り、その時々での選択と決断がその後の人生を決定づけることを描いています。写真展「#ForEveryAge of HER LIFE (すべての世代の彼女のために)」は、国連人口基金 (UNFPA) アジア太平洋地域事務所による地域キャンペーンの一環として、外務省より後援を受けて実施されています。

主催 国連人口基金 アジア太平洋地域事務所  
後援 外務省



# 5

## INNOVATION FOR EQUALITY



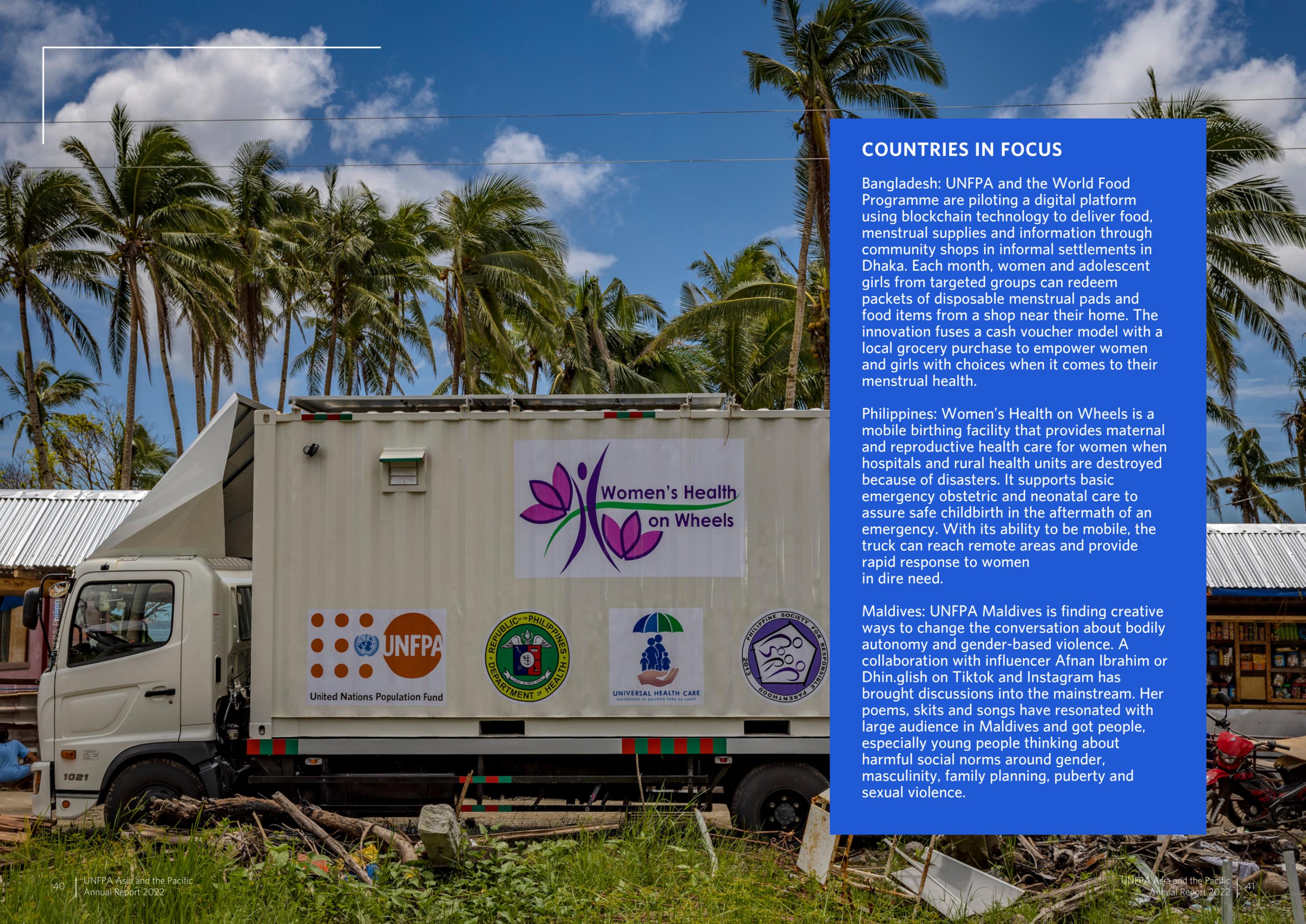
©Samantha Reinders / UNFPA, Bangladesh

In Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA helps to pioneer innovative solutions to the region's challenges and accelerate progress towards the three transformative goals of zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices.

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- The Global Innovation Capacity Building Plan was finalized and the training and mentorship programmes were launched, strengthening a new cohort of UNFPA innovators and intrapreneurs by providing expert support and training in leading innovation techniques.
- A regional innovation plan was developed, including elements of big data and artificial intelligence (AI), and providing the foundation for UNFPA Asia-Pacific's innovation work for the next three years. The regional office also hosted an innovation fair at the Regional Leadership Meeting 2022, which showcased around 110 innovations from across the region.
- Partnerships were expanded with the Global Disability Innovation Hub, Special Olympics, Amazon, United Nations System Staff College and the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator to build UNFPA skills in new areas of work such as scaling for impact, AI/machine learning, blockchain and disability inclusion.





## COUNTRIES IN FOCUS

**Bangladesh:** UNFPA and the World Food Programme are piloting a digital platform using blockchain technology to deliver food, menstrual supplies and information through community shops in informal settlements in Dhaka. Each month, women and adolescent girls from targeted groups can redeem packets of disposable menstrual pads and food items from a shop near their home. The innovation fuses a cash voucher model with a local grocery purchase to empower women and girls with choices when it comes to their menstrual health.

**Philippines:** Women's Health on Wheels is a mobile birthing facility that provides maternal and reproductive health care for women when hospitals and rural health units are destroyed because of disasters. It supports basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care to assure safe childbirth in the aftermath of an emergency. With its ability to be mobile, the truck can reach remote areas and provide rapid response to women in dire need.

**Maldives:** UNFPA Maldives is finding creative ways to change the conversation about bodily autonomy and gender-based violence. A collaboration with influencer Afnan Ibrahim or Dhin.glish on Tiktok and Instagram has brought discussions into the mainstream. Her poems, skits and songs have resonated with large audience in Maldives and got people, especially young people thinking about harmful social norms around gender, masculinity, family planning, puberty and sexual violence.



6

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Ensuring that no one is left behind is paramount to UNFPA's mission of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In Asia and the Pacific, we place marginalized groups and people at the heart of our advocacy and programme support.

### IN 2022, THROUGH OUR SUPPORT:

- Parliamentarians were engaged and trained on ICPD, youth engagement, HIV, LGBTQI+ issues, health financing, and NTAs in partnerships with the Asian Development Population Association and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.
- The 2022 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Co-chairs' Statement included language on how approaches that promote and support diverse participation and leadership of women, youth, people living with disability, LGBTQI+ people, indigenous people, and older persons reduce disaster risk.
- Sixteen countries were able to strengthen the capacities of national human rights institutions and civil society on advocacy for and monitoring of the implementation of country recommendations from the universal periodic review and/or treaty bodies for the realization of the three transformative results.
- Two regional capacity development initiatives were supported on human rights and international humanitarian law.
- Case studies and promising practices in implementing disability inclusion in gender-based violence programming were documented, consolidating comprehensive learnings from across the Asia and the Pacific region. Thirty-three countries implemented the UNFPA guidelines for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services for women and young people with disabilities.
- An advocacy plan was developed on the elimination of forced sterilization on people with disabilities.
- Several countries were able to strengthen HIV prevention, including guiding a border/mobility HIV project between Timor Leste and Indonesia and implementing integrated services for sex workers in India, Iran, Bangladesh, and Timor Leste.



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## Profile: Maselina Iuta Fiso, Samoa

Maselina grew up deaf in Samoa, which was extremely challenging. "Growing up, there were a lot of barriers. There was nothing. No access to sign language or education. I couldn't understand, I couldn't read and I couldn't write for many years. It wasn't until I was 13 that I first learnt sign language, and had the opportunity to read and write, but even now, I continue to work hard to improve my education."

Maselina was just a child when the tsunami hit Samoa in 2009. Being deaf, she struggled to understand how to respond.

**"That time, on TV when they talked about what was happening, there was no sign language translation," says Maselina. "I was asking my parents, please can you tell me what is happening? And they would try to explain about the tsunami. My family has always really supported me to help me understand. We must make sure everyone can understand and stay safe during a tsunami."**

Today, Maselina is a founding member and project officer for the Deaf Association of Samoa

**"My role is to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and work with the deaf community in Samoa to make sure that they are able to participate in all aspects of society," Maselina says. "We do a lot of work with deaf people in rural areas. We are trying to learn better ways to address the specific barriers they experience, and advocate at community and national levels for the realization of their rights."**

Maselina leads advocacy campaigns with the Deaf Association of Samoa, helping engage the Samoa Meteorological Office, the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the National Disaster Management Office to prioritize the needs and voices of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing in Samoa.

# PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

As Asia and the Pacific faced several shocks in 2022 ranging from the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to increasing humanitarian crises, our donors and partners continued to support UNFPA in accelerating the implementation of the ICPD agenda. We also pursued new and innovative partnerships that brought in additional resources and collaboration.

In 2022, UNFPA in Asia and the Pacific mobilized over US\$200 million non-core income.

Several new partnerships were developed across our programme countries during the year, covering the four key areas of brain power, financial partnerships, advocacy and reach partnerships.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific continued to strategically engage with key bilateral donors such as Australia, Sweden, Korea and Japan, resulting in increased collaboration and funding at the country level.





# Thank you

**We thank our donors for the steadfast support towards our work in Asia and the Pacific. Your support has helped to greatly improve the well-being of millions of women and girls across the region.**



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

United Nations Population Fund  
Asia-Pacific Regional Office  
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