



SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

FACTS AND FIGURES

Mandate

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the UN development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a healthy life with equal opportunities. It works to enhance the right to sexual and reproductive health and supports countries to enable them to utilise demographic data in the formulation of policies and programmes to combat poverty.

Type of organisation

Fund financed through voluntary contributions

Institution

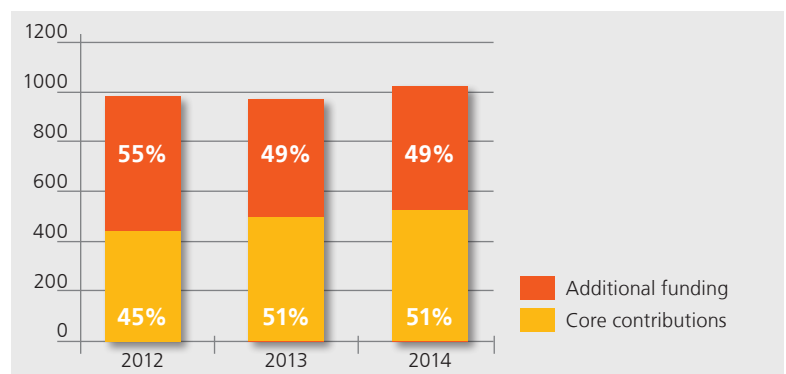
- **Head of organisation:** Babatunde Osotimehin (Nigeria)
- **Headquarters:** New York
- **Number of country offices:** 129
- **Number of staff (September 2015):** 2,631 (682 international and 1,949 locally recruited)
- **Established in:** 1967, operationally active in 1969
- **Board:** Executive Board with 36 rotating members (Switzerland will be a member of the board in 2016)

Switzerland

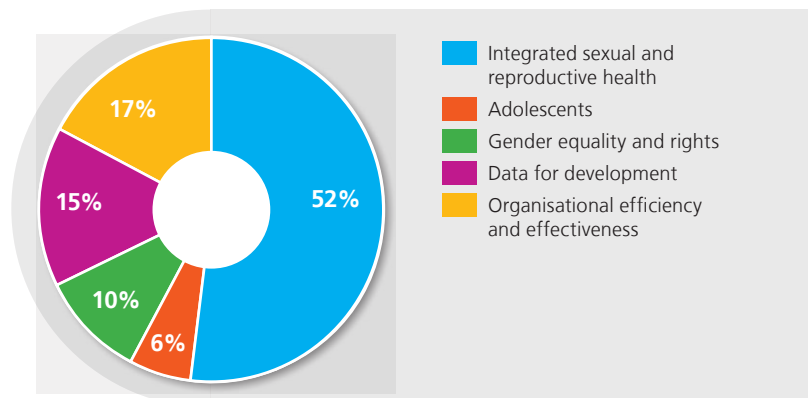
- **Annual financial contribution (2014):**
 - Core contribution: CHF 16 million
 - Additional funding: CHF 4.73 million
- **Number of Swiss staff (September 2015):** 3

Website: www.unfpa.org

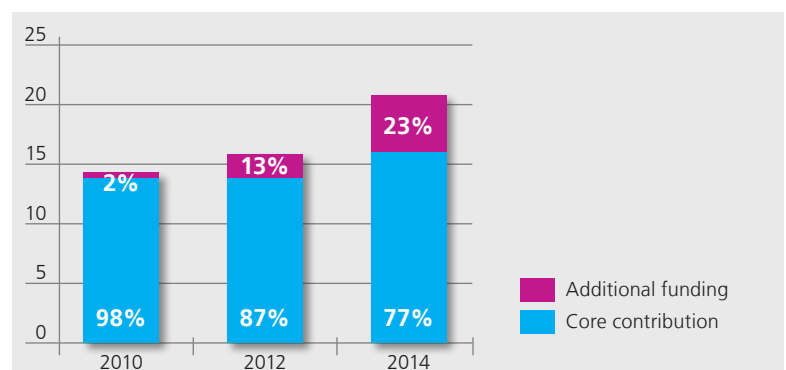
UNFPA total revenues (in CHF million)



UNFPA expenditure by focus area in 2014



Switzerland's contributions (in CHF million)



UNFPA

Mandate

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the UN development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. It works to enhance the right to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and provides training to policy makers in the utilisation of demographic data for the formulation of policies and programmes to combat poverty. Its vision is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA's efforts are guided by the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). During the last 15 years, UNFPA further focused on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as four of the eight MDGs were closely related to its mandate, namely promoting gender equality and empowering women, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. UNFPA substantially contributed to reaching these goals. However, gender inequality and SRH remain a major issue – also for the post-2015 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In general, developing countries that invest in their health and education systems as well as in the empowerment of women and girls have lower birth and mortality rates and better prospects for development.

Medium-term objectives

The goal of UNFPA is the achievement of universal access to SRH (including family planning), the realisation of reproductive rights, and the reduction of maternal mortality in order to accelerate progress on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Agenda. Women, adolescents and young people, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalised, are the main beneficiaries of UNFPA's work. Key factors that enable the goal to be attained are a human rights-based approach, gender equality and a gender-responsive approach, and the availability of data about population dynamics. For this purpose, UNFPA concentrates on achieving the following four outcomes:

- Increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access;
- Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive education on human sexuality and SRH services;
- Advanced gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and reproductive rights, in-

cluding for the most vulnerable and marginalised women, adolescents and young people;

- Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, SRH, reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality.

Results

UNFPA works with governments and non-governmental organisations in more than 150 countries. Results have been achieved in all the main areas of activity:

Universal access to SRH, family planning and prevention of HIV/AIDS

Investing in SRH is one of the most effective ways to promote inclusive and sustainable development. UNFPA aims at establishing universal access to a full range of reproductive health services ensuring sexual health, family planning, safe births and the prevention of unsafe abortions.

UNFPA is dedicated to giving access to family planning to an estimated 225 million women who want to make use of such options but cannot. It effectively supported access to and demand for contraceptives. As part of its efforts to ensure universal access to SRH including HIV services, UNFPA provided 750 million male condoms and 15 million female condoms, and expanded comprehensive condom programming to an additional 21 countries. Together with partner organisations, UNFPA developed critical evidence and guidance on HIV and key populations and helped to guarantee access to care and treatment.

In 2014 UNFPA made a special effort to improve maternal health: Through a thematic fund, UNFPA helped 43 countries raise the quality of emergency, obstetric and newborn care, expand and strengthen midwifery and build national capacities for tracking maternal deaths.

Investing in adolescents

Investing heavily in young people's education and health and protecting their rights could help developing countries with large youth populations see their economies soar. Comprehensive sexuality education enables young people to make informed decisions about their sexuality and health. UNFPA provided technical support to an additional 24 countries in 2014 to develop comprehensive sexuality education curricula that are aligned with international standards, raising the total to 63. UNFPA advocated in 42 countries for allowing adolescents and youth to have legal access to quality SRH and HIV counselling and services. In 2014, 86 countries had laws that allow adolescents to access SRH services.

Systematic use of data on population dynamics in shaping national policies

Good policy-making and planning requires reliable information and knowledge about the growth and structure, the spatial movement and distribution, and the living conditions of a country's population.



Women in Bongouanou, Côte d'Ivoire, during a prenatal medical consultation (© UN Photo/Hien Macline)

The number of countries that conducted a national household survey yielding reproductive health indicators increased from 69 in 2013 to 101 in 2014, and those that completed evaluations on strategic activities for SRH and youth increased from 26 to 66. Additionally, 130 national development plans in 125 countries receiving UNFPA support took population dynamics into account when setting targets. In 2014, UNFPA supported 18 additional countries in the development of gender action plans that included reproductive rights and that had a national budget allocation, raising the total to 64.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

In the area of gender equality and women's empowerment, UNFPA focuses on reproductive rights, which comprise a constellation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights protecting the freedom of individuals and couples to make autonomous, informed decisions about sexuality and reproduction and to enjoy their sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.

The achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment is a precondition for women to be able to exercise their reproductive rights. UNFPA continues to advocate for women and girls, promoting legal and policy reforms.

It is also involved in combating female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence. It launched an initiative in 2014 to mobilise midwives in a global effort to stop FGM. Supported by UNFPA, more than 2,000 communities declared in 2012 that they had abandoned the practice. UNFPA also promoted legislation and programmes to end child marriage. In 2014, 41 countries received support to develop health, social and economic asset-building programmes that reach adolescent girls at risk of child marriage.

Case example

Safer transition to adulthood for Ethiopian girls

An estimated 41% of women aged between 20 and 24 in Ethiopia report having been married

before the age of 18. The 'Berhane Hewan' programme (established in 2004) set out to protect girls from forced marriage and support those who are already married through the formation of groups led by female adult mentors. Through the Berhane Hewan programme, peers, the community and individuals successfully came together to improve the social, educational and health status of vulnerable girls. The programme coupled community education and engagement with financial incentives. Participants were given school supplies worth about USD 6 a year as well as a goat or sheep, worth about USD 25, upon completion of the two-year programme. The programme reached more than 12,000 girls in the Amhara region, which has the country's highest incidence of child marriage. Girls who attended the programme—especially those between the ages of 10 and 14—were more likely to have stayed in school and were less likely to have married than their counterparts who did not participate in the programme.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland sees the central role of UNFPA as supporting developing countries in matters regarding SRH, reproductive rights, women's and girl's rights and population development. In culturally sensitive areas such as family planning and contraception, the acceptance of an international organisation like UNFPA is greater than that of an individual donor. Switzerland therefore prioritises multilateral cooperation in population matters and has supported UNFPA since 1973.

Switzerland's medium-term objectives

For 2014–2017, Switzerland has defined the following goals:

Strengthening the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth, in particular young adolescent girls

Switzerland contributes to increasing the availability of comprehensive sexuality education and access to information for adolescents, especially very young adolescent girls. It further supports UNFPA's strategy on adolescents and youth to ensure their access to and use of SRH services.

Improving UNFPA's development results through a strengthened results-based management culture, professionalised evaluation and system-wide coherence

Switzerland promotes the strengthening of the capacities of UNFPA personnel in results-oriented planning, monitoring and evaluation. It fosters UNFPA's efficiency and effectiveness through increased partnerships with other UN organisations in order to benefit from operational synergies.



A female doctor discusses family planning issues at Mchinji Hospital in Malawi, where UNFPA provides support. (©UNFPA/Pinjani Semur-Banda)

Anchoring the topic of SRH and gender in the 2030 Agenda and ensuring its implementation

Switzerland promoted the inclusion of gender and health in the sustainable development goals. Switzerland is a strong advocate for SRH and rights and builds alliances to reach international consensus for the promotion and implementation of those rights.

UNFPA CHALLENGES

In spite of the substantial progress it has made, UNFPA still faces challenges. Given the sensitive nature of its mandate, which relates to social norms, it is not surprising that progress, especially regarding SRH and rights, has not been as rapid as expected. The medium-term strategic plan and business model give a clear direction to UNFPA with a focused approach on SRH and reproductive rights. The type of engagement, such as service delivery, capacity building or technical expertise, is also adjusted according to countries' specific needs. Cooperation with other UN agencies, joint programmes and partnership building with civil society and the private sector is key to ensure further outreach and leverage of resources. SRH and reproductive rights are the essential and determining dimension of women and adolescent girls' life and their fulfillment is and will be key to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Contact

global.institutions@eda.admin.ch

Anchoring the topic of SRH and gender in the 2030 Agenda and ensuring its implementation within the sustainable development goals

Results of Swiss cooperation with UNFPA

Thanks to Switzerland's extensive knowledge, solid field experience, continuous and substantial participation in the meetings of the UNFPA Executive Board and bilateral dialogue with the management and technical staff, Switzerland has been able to achieve significant results::

Strengthening the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth, in particular young adolescent girls

Switzerland is co-funding with UNFPA a regional programme in Southern Africa on integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health youth friendly services. This includes sexuality education and youth empowerment. It aims to address the challenges of early marriages, early and unintended pregnancies, high rates of HIV and other STIs among adolescents and young people.

Improving UNFPA's development results

Switzerland engaged in a systematic dialogue with UNFPA's Executive Board, management and staff on the progress of instituting a culture of results-based programming, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. Moreover, Switzerland extended its management for development results partnership to strengthen UNFPA's capacity for results-based management and enabled the participation of UNFPA staff in evaluation trainings. Switzerland further maintained a continuous dialogue with the UNFPA Independent Evaluation Office and provided staff in the field of monitoring and evaluation. Switzerland also helped to strengthen the UNFPA's engagement in the UN reform process and to reinforce partnerships with other UN organisations, especially those working on health issues.