



ZAMBIA ANNUAL REPORT | 2020

"From Commitments to Action"



UNFPA Works to End...

- 1 | Unmet Need for Family Planning
- 2 | Preventable Maternal Deaths
- 3 | Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices, Including Child Marriage



Contents

- 04 | Message from the Representative
- 06 | Towards Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning
- 09 | Towards Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths
- 13 | Towards Ending Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices
- 16 | Programme Enablers

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

IN THE PICTURE: UNFPA Representative Ms. Gift Malunga (M) with technical colleagues during a field visit to the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA). In 2020, UNFPA procured an estimated 60% of family planning commodity needs for the public sector



At UNFPA in Zambia, we envision a world with; zero unmet need for family planning, zero maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices. We work towards this futuristic but attainable goal for women and young people – every year.

The year 2020 saw the culmination of significant milestones, as well as challenges towards fulfilling sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. During the said year, member states commemorated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, which adopted a forward-looking political declaration on *“The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”*.

The same year also marked the beginning of the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, calling for accelerated sustainable solutions to the world's development challenges. Zambia, as part of the global community, confronted one of the worst health challenges in history - the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNFPA in Zambia, was part of these historic moments, making significant contributions in sustaining partnerships with national and international partners in advancing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda.

UNFPA's contribution could not have been more critical as we delivered high-impact sexual and reproductive health results for women and young people. Population data remained central to our work, including gender equality and human rights, as we were striving to leave no one behind.

Our collective achievements for 2020 with the Government of Zambia and other partners are presented in this report, that UNFPA is pleased to share with you. Thank you to each and every partner working with UNFPA, for contributing to the achievement of these results.

Looking forward, in 2021 and beyond, UNFPA, as part of the broader UN family in Zambia, remains firmly committed to partnering with the Government of the Republic of Zambia in addressing the national priorities outlined in the seventh National Development Plan, under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) and UNFPA's 8th Country Programme of Cooperation with the Government of Zambia. The focus is on the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA), including building resilience and adaptability as we continue to collectively deliver for women and young people – especially the adolescent girl - amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are indeed indebted to the donors who support UNFPA and who remain committed to advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people. UNFPA and partners reaffirm their commitment to address the unfinished business of the ICPD agenda.



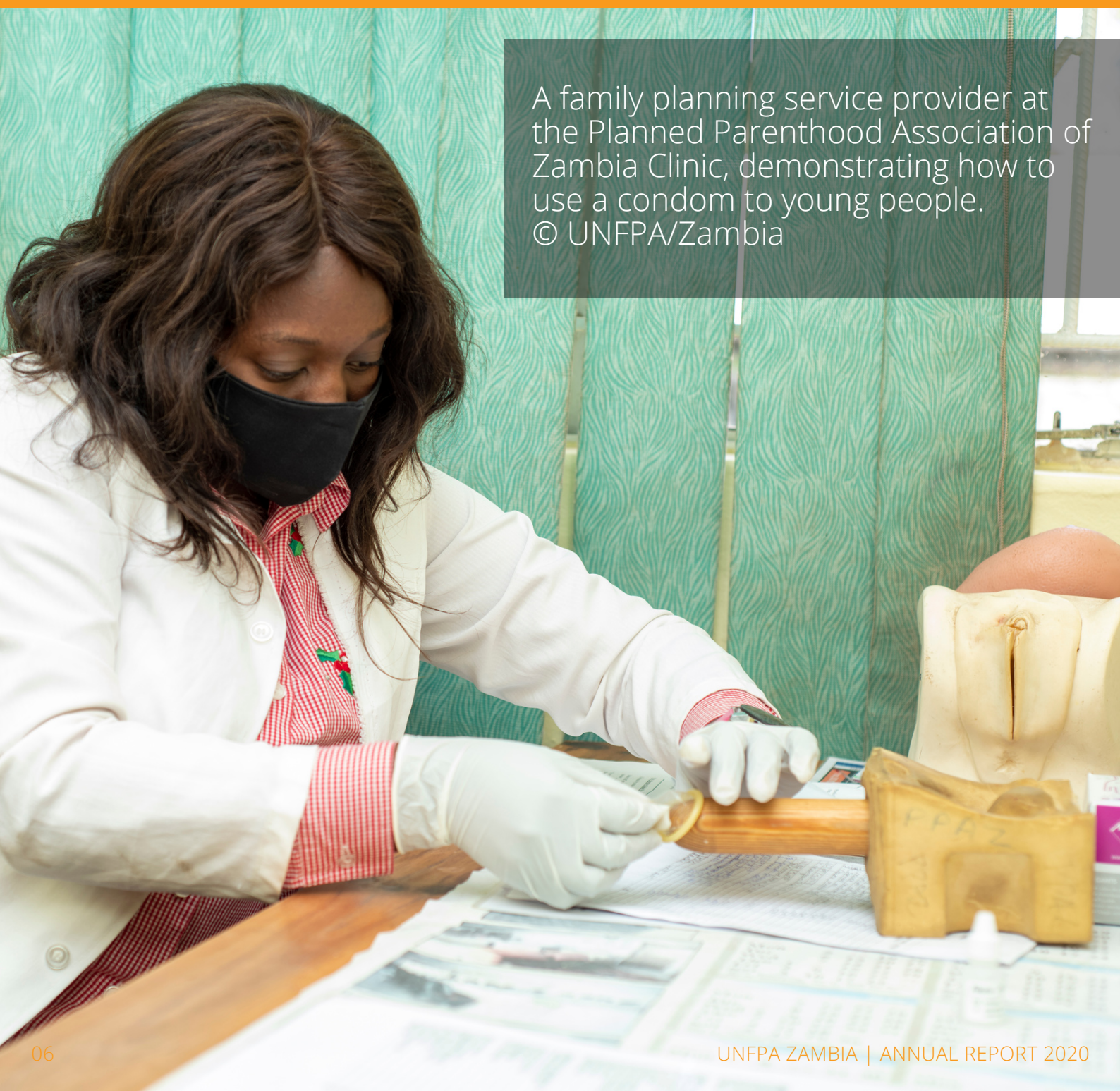
Ms. Gift Malunga
UNFPA Representative

WATCH SUMMARY VIDEO: 2020 Key Results



TOWARDS ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

A family planning service provider at the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia Clinic, demonstrating how to use a condom to young people.
© UNFPA/Zambia



In 2020, UNFPA continued to support the Government of Zambia in the implementation of the National Family Planning Scale Up Plan (2013 to 2020), which aimed to increase the national contraceptive prevalence from 33% to 58% and reduce unmet need for Family Planning from 22% to 14% by the year 2020.

Key Results

2020



1,990,354

Couple Years of Protection (i.e. 1 year of protection against unintended pregnancy) were generated through UNFPA's procurement of 60% of family planning commodity needs for the public sector.



84,447

Additional users of modern contraceptives were reached, bringing the total number of women using a modern method of contraception in Zambia to 1,530,000 as at the end of 2020.



605,000

Unintended pregnancies and 133,000 unsafe abortions were averted, due to use of modern methods of contraception.



Service delivery point stock-out of family planning commodities was reduced, with proportion of service delivery points with at least 7 essential medicines and commodities increasing from 90% in 2018 to **92% in 2020**, due to UNFPA support for last mile distribution of essential health commodities.

Other key milestones by UNFPA and the Government of Zambia included the countrywide roll-out of subcutaneous Depot Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (DMPA-SC) self-injection to reach marginalized and hard to reach populations; improved policy environment for private sector participation and Total Market Approach (TMA) to increase points of access for contraceptives; as well as capacity building of nurses training schools to be able to deliver quality pre-service training on Family Planning method mix.



Addressing Unmet Need for Family Planning Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

In line with Zambia's Family Planning Scale Up Plan (2016-2020), which aimed to increase the national contraceptive prevalence from 33% to 58% and reduce unmet need for Family Planning from 22% to 14% by the year 2020, the Government of Zambia with support from UNFPA and other partners, has invested in key strategies to expand access to modern methods of contraception, including through the countrywide roll-out of subcutaneous Depot Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (DMPA-SC) self-injection to reach marginalized and hard to reach populations, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Florence*, a midwife at the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, shares how participation in a capacity building initiative in the use of DMPA-SC self-injection expanded her capacities and enabled her to provide a method-mix of contraception to users in hard to reach communities.

IN THE PICTURE: A family planning provider explaining how to use DMPA-SC self-injection to a client at the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia Clinic in Lusaka. © UNFPA/Zambia

"After participating in the trainings, I began applying my new skills by undertaking community outreach - sensitizing women and men on the benefits of DMPA-SC. Initially, family planning users were not very keen on self-injecting, with many citing injectable contraceptives as ideally the responsibility of health care workers. However, after a series of sustained awareness raising, many users began understanding the benefits of the self-injecting method, especially during COVID-19 restriction of movements and/or where non-essential visits to health facilities discouraged clients from visiting health facilities. More importantly, many clients were happy about the ability to take full control of the administration of injectable contraception" she says.

As part of its support to the Government of Zambia as well as partners, UNFPA continues to invest in capacity building of health workers like Florence*, who play a critical role towards ending unmet need for family planning in Zambia. In 2020, a total of 84,447 additional users of modern contraceptives were reached with support from UNFPA and other partners in Zambia.

TOWARDS ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS



A young mother in urban Lusaka benefiting from ongoing maternal and newborn health services supported by UNFPA, among other partners.
© UNFPA/Zambia

In 2020, UNFPA continued to support the Government of Zambia towards reducing maternal mortality to 100/100,000 live births by 2021, as outlined in the National Health Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021). Currently, maternal mortality rate stands at 278/100,000 live births (2018 ZDHS), which is still unacceptably high.

Specific strategic interventions included support towards the continuity of essential maternal and newborn health services during the 2020 first wave of COVID-19 pandemic; provision of basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), midwifery training and mentorship; prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula; maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR); and other essential sexual and reproductive health services to ensure “no woman dies giving life”.

Key Results

2020



386

Health care providers received training in provision of emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), while 69 nurses/midwives were recruited with support from UNFPA to help mitigate staff shortages during the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure continued provision of essential sexual and reproductive health services in under-served rural areas.



1,000

Maternal deaths were averted through basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), family planning and continuity of essential SRHR services during the 2020 first wave of COVID-19 pandemic.



101

Women with obstetric fistula underwent successful surgical repair, thus restoring their dignity.



The proportion of health facilities providing adolescent friendly services increased from 57% to 62%, resulting in 48,187 adolescents receiving sexual and reproductive health information and services essential to address adolescent pregnancies and HIV among others.



The Inspiring Role of a Midwife Amid COVID-19

Midwives play a critical role towards averting preventable maternal and newborn deaths, particularly during pandemics and other humanitarian situations. Moses' story showcases one of many inspiring efforts by frontline health workers, who despite being at risk themselves, continue to save lives in some of the most hard to reach communities.

Moses Nkosi was born and raised in rural Eastern Province of Zambia, in a family of seven. Despite the many social and economic challenges he faced growing up, he remained determined to pursue his ambition of building a career in the health sector. *"As a child, I became critically ill. While receiving treatment at a local health centre in my village, I drew inspiration from the health staff who dedicated their time to caring for me. Today, I am living that dream by using my skills to save lives in rural communities of Sioma District as a midwife"* says Moses with a smile on his face.

During a UNFPA humanitarian mission to Sioma District of Western Province, Moses shared his experience on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected health service delivery for mothers and newborns in his duty station that covers a population of over 7,000.

Noting the key challenges presented by COVID-19, Moses dedicated time, going beyond the call of duty to undertake community sensitization and engagements with key stakeholders and traditional leaders, in addition to onsite work at the health facility.

"I have had several meetings with traditional leaders to lobby for their support in ensuring that no woman delivers at home. In my monthly outreach, I have also dedicated time to share information with women on the importance of accessing antenatal care and skilled delivery among others, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic." says Moses.

As part of the UN Zambia joint efforts to prevent and respond to COVID-19, UNFPA continues to provide technical and financial support for the retention of midwives deployed to areas critically affected by lack of staff to ensure continuity of maternal health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN THE PICTURE: Moses Nkosi performing routine antenatal check-ups at a rural-based health facility in Sioma District of Western Province. The facility is among many rural based facilities supported by UNFPA in Western Province. © UNFPA/Zambia



My Fistula is repaired! Now I can return to school!

Mariud, aged 19, lives in a remote village located in Mkushi District, Central Province of Zambia. Pregnant at the age of 13, Mariud developed Obstetric Fistula in 2014, as a result of a 72 hour prolonged labour.

"I became pregnant while I was in grade 7. My parents were very upset and decided to stop supporting my education. Like many women and girls in my village, I stayed to deliver at home, with the assistance of a traditional birth attendant. Unfortunately, I spent almost 3 days in labour without progress. It was very difficult to get to the nearest hospital - which is located almost 1 days' walk from our village - because we did not have transport. Fortunately, a community volunteer heard about my ordeal and arranged an ambulance to take me to Mkushi General Hospital where an operation to deliver the baby was done. However by the time I was getting there I had lost my baby. A week after I left the hospital I begun passing urine uncontrollably, of which I later learnt was a condition called Fistula. I stayed with this condition for 5 years. I could not freely interact with my friends because of the bad smell and I had to sleep on the hard floor to avoid soiling my bed-mattress. I was very sad" explains Mariud.

Mariud is among thousands of women and adolescent girls affected by Obstetric Fistula in Zambia. Through the Global Campaign to End Fistula, UNFPA provides support to the Government of the Republic of Zambia towards Fistula prevention, treatment and social reintegration programmes. Since 2005, UNFPA's support has translated into nearly 5,000 life-transforming surgeries across the country.

"In early 2020, a relative arranged for me to travel to Lusaka [Zambia's capital] to seek medical assistance to heal my condition. Just a few days after my operation at Chilenje Hospital, I was excited to notice that I could control the passing of urine, and the doctor told me that my fistula is repaired! My life is now back to normal and I cannot wait to go back to school! I also want to contribute towards prevention of early pregnancies among other young girls in my village!" Says Mariud with a big smile.

In keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNFPA and partners such as the Fistula Foundation also continue to draw the attention of policymakers, communities and individuals, to key actions and investments required to end the needless suffering caused by Obstetric Fistula, including among adolescent girls. This includes key actions to end child marriage and adolescent pregnancies.

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, UNFPA continues to support the prevention of Obstetric Fistula through the delivery of essential sexual and reproductive health services, including midwifery services and emergency obstetric and newborn care, which is key towards Fistula prevention.

IN THE PICTURE: 19-year-old Mariud smiles after a successful Fistula repair surgery. She wants to return to school and be an advocate for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in her village.
© UNFPA/Zambia

TOWARDS ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES



An adolescent girl participating in a school-based safe space in rural Senanga District of Western Province, supported through the UNFPA/UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. © UNFPA/Zambia

In 2020, UNFPA continued to use disaggregated data and evidence to support gender sensitive interventions, taking into account how gender norms and roles can obstruct or advance progress towards sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

This includes support towards the operationalization of the Anti-Gender Based Violence (GBV) Act No. 1 of 2011, which provides for the protection of victims of GBV including the prevention and management of the same; as well as addressing harmful cultural practices such as child marriage.

Key Results

2020



7,125

Adolescents at risk of child marriage graduated from life-skills mentorship programmes in UNFPA supported districts.

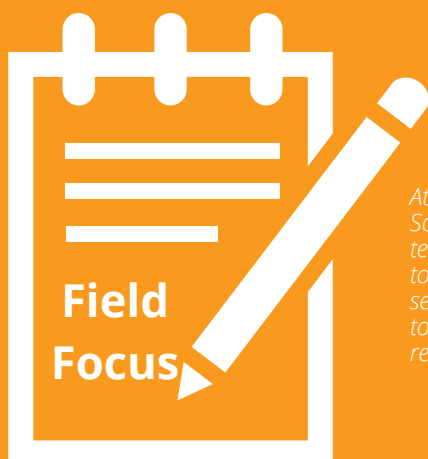


141

Traditional leaders initiated the implementation of girl-centred programmes to address teenage pregnancy and child marriage in their chiefdoms.



UNFPA also continued to integrate gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response within humanitarian responses, including in COVID-19 prevention as well as response to flood and drought situations in target districts.



Field
Focus

At Senanga Secondary School for the Deaf, a teacher uses sign language to discuss a comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) topic deliver key sexual and reSRH messages to a learner





Accelerating Progress on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia

In order to accelerate national efforts towards ending child marriage in Zambia, UNFPA Zambia, through the "UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to End Child Marriage", has prioritized investments in girl-centred interventions in some of the most hard to reach rural communities of Katete and Senanga Districts. The interventions are aimed at empowering adolescent girls with life skills and information on sexual and reproductive health, delivered through community and school-based "safe spaces".

Current national data indicates that Zambia has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates globally, with 31.4% of girls being married by their 18th birthday.

As a result of the mentorship programme, school administrators in target Districts are consistently reporting a reduction in school dropout rates due related to child marriage and adolescent pregnancy.

IN THE PICTURE: *Learners with disabilities at Senanga School for the Deaf, participating in a community-based safe space © UNFPA/Zambia*

"Since the programme commenced in selected schools, we have noted significant improvements in terms of keeping girls in school as well as in numbers of child marriage in our communities. Recent data revealed a 26% reduction in child marriage and adolescent pregnancy related school dropouts in the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage target areas. We have further supported the re-integration of former child-brides back into school." - highlighted the Deputy Head Teacher at Sibukali Secondary School in Katete.

At Senanga School of the Deaf, the programme has also supported learners with disabilities to access comprehensive sexuality education and life skills training. Trained mentors conduct sessions with the girls using sign language and other forms of interactive methodologies.

At a District level, the programme has further supported Katete and Senanga to develop and launch District Plans of Action adapted from the National Action Plan for Ending Child Marriage and the Seventh National Development Plan. Both districts have also developed costed, multi-sectoral operational frameworks.

PROGRAMME ENABLERS

2020 Annual Review and 2021 Planning Meeting

Output 2



A Government official from the Ministry of National Development Planning facilitating sessions at the 2020 annual review with UNFPA partners © UNFPA/Zambia

Humanitarian Action

To ensure continuity of sexual and reproductive health services amid the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in humanitarian settings, UNFPA - as part of the UN Zambia joint support to the Government of Zambia - intensified partnerships with line Ministries and implementing partners to facilitate access to health and protection services among target populations as well as frontline workers.

Key Results

2020



6,886

Vulnerable adolescent girls and women received humanitarian support (dignity and mama kits) as part of the response to emergencies occasioned by severe drought, floods and COVID-19.



279

Health care providers had their capacity strengthened in provision of appropriate COVID-19 infection prevention and control among frontline workers, particularly in anticipation of the second wave of the pandemic in the last quarter of 2020.



88

Oxygen concentrators procured with support from the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) were temporarily deployed for use in COVID-19 response at the height of the second wave to support the critical shortage of Oxygen in COVID-19 response at health facility level.



UNFPA scaled up support towards the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers, as well as health systems strengthening where needed.



Dignity Kits Meet Hygiene Needs of Women and Girls Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

During pandemics, women and girls of reproductive age remain among the most severely affected population group – with a heightened need for specific health and hygiene services.

With the fast evolving challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA Zambia, as part of the UN Zambia joint response to COVID-19, is supporting key actions aimed at integrating the needs of women and girls in national emergency responses. This support includes the provision of dignity kits in humanitarian settings and communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside community awareness programmes on available reproductive health services.

Typically, a dignity kit comprises basic items such as sanitary pads, hygiene soap, underclothes and water buckets that women and girls need to maintain hygiene and respect in the face of crisis and pandemics.

IN THE PICTURE: UNFPA Provincial Coordinator for Luapula Province (L) handing over dignity-kits to the District Health Director (R) at Nakonde District Urban Clinic

"I recently delivered my baby. However, because of the COVID-19 outbreak in our District and the subsequent decision to lockdown the District, I was unable to prepare any basic sanitary items for use after delivery. I am therefore very grateful to receive these sanitary pads among other items contained in this dignity kit. They have really helped me in my greatest time of need" - says Sabrina, a new mother in Nakonde District of Muchinga Province.*

Sabrina* was among the estimated 85,000 women and adolescent girls of reproductive age with a heightened need for reproductive health information and services in Nakonde District, the epicenter of COVID-19 outbreak during the first wave of the pandemic in Zambia, located at the international border between Zambia and Tanzania.

Speaking when receiving the dignity kits on behalf of the Nakonde District Health Office, Dr. Arthur Mataka, District Health Director, acknowledged the timely support received from UNFPA, underscoring the need to scale-up provision of reproductive health information and services as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate existing inequalities among women and girls.

Harnessing Data for Development

In 2020, UNFPA Zambia continued to provide both technical and financial support to the Government of Zambia, through the Ministry of National Development Planning, the Zambia Statistics Agency and the Ministry of Health, to scale up national capacity to generate and utilize statistical data and evidence, in order to inform national policy and planning. Specific milestones for the year included the following:

Key Results

2020



4

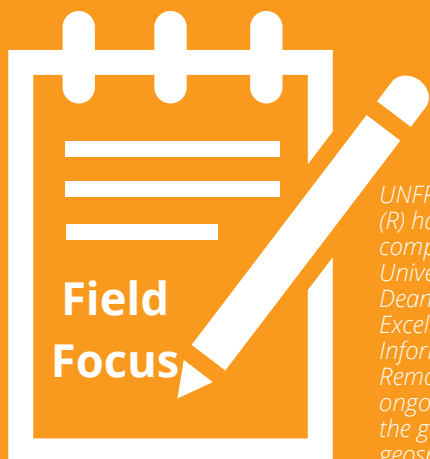
National assessments were supported by UNFPA to contribute to the body of knowledge around COVID-19; as well as to inform national programming processes including the 8th National Development Plan.



With UNFPA support, the Ministry of National Development Planning officially launched the National Population Policy and implementation plan. The policy provides national guidance for integrating population and development in national planning processes.



A comprehensive geospatial census database was designed for the Zambia Statistics Agency in collaboration with senior GIS experts in the agency, thus improving the overall data management process for Zambia Statistics Agency



Field
Focus

UNFPA Zambia Representative (R) handing over high-tech computer equipment to the University of Zambia Assistant Dean, for use at the Center of Excellence for Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS), as part of ongoing support to enhance the generation and use of geospatial information under the GRID3Project



UNFPA Zambia sincerely thanks the donors listed below, who contributed or who are contributing to the overall resource envelope for UNFPA's 8th Country Programme with the Government of Zambia (2016-2022)

SWEDEN



AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Midwifery
- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence and HIV Linkages

IRELAND



AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Ending Gender Based Violence

UNITED KINGDOM



AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition
- Scaling-up Family Planning
- Ending Child Marriage



THE MATERNAL HEALTH THEMATIC FUND

- Supported by Governments of Sweden, Germany and Luxembourg

CANADA



AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Maternal and Neonatal Health
- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Ending Child Marriage



REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH (RMNCH) TRUST FUND

- Supported by Governments of Norway and United Kingdom

EUROPEAN UNION



AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Scaling-up Family Planning
- Emergency Obstetric & Neonatal Care
- Maternal Death Surveillance & Response
- Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence and HIV Linkages
- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health



UNFPA SUPPLIES

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SWITZERLAND



AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA

- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Ending Child Marriage



UNIFIED BUDGET, RESULTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (UBRAF)

- Co-sponsored by UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank



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