<u>Talking Points for Mr. Dereje Wordofa UNFPA Deputy Executive Director</u>

<u>During the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</u>
<u>Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies: Building</u>
<u>Resilience</u>
<u>Tuesday, 10 July 2018, 9:00-11:00 am, Conference Room 4</u>

- Amidst rising threats related to climate change, conflict, political instability and inequality, we need resilient communities more than ever before.
- UNFPA's commitment to build resilience is part of the steps to achieve our Transformative Results: ending preventable maternal deaths; addressing unmet need for family planning; and ending GBV and Harmful Practices. Achieving these transformative results necessitates success in some of the highest risk contexts in the world.
- I would like to focus on some issues that are at the core of building resilience, reducing risk, and maintaining our path to sustainable development, but which often get forgotten:
  - o The situation of **young people**, the risks they face and how we need to invest in them to drive resilience;
  - o Preventing and supporting recovery from **gender-based violence**, which increases amidst instability;
  - o The importance of **strengthening health systems and universal access to sexual and reproductive health services;**
  - o The need to understand the **current and future size, location and composition of the population,** to understand people's exposure, vulnerability, needs, and capacity to adapt and recover.

1. Investing in young people

- Today, the world has more young people than ever before: 46 percent of the world's population is under 25, and proportions are highest in Africa and the Middle East.
- With the rise of violent conflicts, many perceive young men as the cause of conflict and young women as the victims.
- But youth are at the frontlines of peacebuilding and are taking on active roles to build peace and prevent outbreaks of violence across the globe.
- This is one of the main findings of the recently launched Study on Youth, Peace and Security, stemming from Security Council Resolution 2250, which debunks the myth that "bulging youth populations" present an increased risk of violence.
- The study found that large proportions of young people are an asset to build and sustain peaceful societies and nations, if strategic investments and public policies ensure empowerment,

education, and employment. This finding builds on the Demographic Dividend, which UNFPA has worked closely with governments to implement.

- Working with young people on peacebuilding requires a bold reorientation from governments and the multilateral system. I would highlight three mutually reinforcing strategies needed to support this shift:
    - o Investing in young people's capacities, agency and leadership, including through substantial funding support;
    - o Addressing the structural barriers limiting youth participation in peace and security, particularly inequality, discrimination and exclusion;
    - o Prioritizing partnerships and collaborative action, where young people are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace and resilience.

2. Addressing Gender Based Violence

- Gender-based violence is the most pervasive yet least reported human rights violation.
- GBV is exacerbated during emergencies. Women's bodies become battlegrounds, with rape used as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate or disrupt social ties. We see increased lawlessness and impunity for abusers, while support networks local response service infrastructure crumbles.
- The impact of GBV is devastating for survivors and their communities – physical consequences may include injuries, unwanted pregnancies, fistulae, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and even death. Survivors often face systematic social rejection.
- Ending GBV, and ensuring treatment and support for those who have experienced it, must be a centerpiece of any real resilience. This requires:
    - o Changing social norms and accompanying laws and policies, to stop GBV before it happens and build confidence in reporting and redress systems;
    - o Ensuring that treatment and response is fully embedded in health systems and emergency response, and that it is accompanied by psychosocial support;
    - o Improving data on GBV, including through the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS), which is the only system used in humanitarian crises that systematically adheres to globally recognized standards.

3. Strengthening health systems and universal access to SRH services

- Resilience cannot be achieved without the promotion of women's, children's, and adolescents' health. We have seen this in the Ebola and Zika outbreaks, and in addressing the impacts of natural disasters and displacement driven by conflict.
- UNFPA is collaborating with governments and many others to progress integrate sexual and reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, including for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.

- We are strengthening capacities to effectively forecast, procure, distribute and track the delivery of sexual and reproductive health commodities. This will help build the resilience of supply chains through a wide range of shocks and stressors and improve the prepositioning and availability of emergency SRH supplies during crisis.

4. Understanding populations, now and in the future

- The 2030 Agenda has reinforced the need for governments to identify and locate those furthest behind. This goal is particularly challenging in humanitarian crises when core population data systems are damaged and people are moving both internally and across international borders.
- Population data are crucial decision-making tools in risk assessment as well as humanitarian needs assessment and response. These data provide a basis for identifying the size, location and demographic profile of those at risk and those in need of humanitarian assistance.
- For example, we have piloted a hybrid census in Afghanistan, integrating satellite data with traditional population data to estimate populations in need in fragile and insecure areas. We are now scaling up this approach in multiple high risk and humanitarian contexts.
- We are also partnering with OCHA to increase delivery of UNFPA population data expertise within humanitarian situations, combining census and registry data to generate the Common Operational Datasets that estimate those in need of humanitarian action.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these crucial areas of work. I look forward to your feedback and discussion.

BACKGROUND: Examples of UNFPA's work

Working with Youth to Build Resilience (supported by the UNFPA Innovation Fund)
- Syria: Displaced youth participated in a business start-up and communication training programme to gain critical business, leadership and entrepreneurship skills. A young Syrian computer science student was among 45 young people received seed-funding to help start small-scale projects. She launched an award-winning app to help young people in Syria and beyond learn to code, design websites, and develop other social media platforms. This start-up will "make a revolution in online learning about programming in the Arab world, to empower people to learn about cutting edge technology tools through Arabic content."
- Palestine: UNFPA Palestine's "Yalla Shabab" ("youth active citizens") aims to change the disenfranchisment of youth in the political process through creative ways to engage young people in civic participation. Palestinian youth brainstorm and design a combination of online and outreach activities to share messages of peace, democracy, social cohesion, and civic engagement. They established a youth council in Gaza that mobilized more than 1000 volunteers to be activated in times of emergency, and to facilitate needs assessments, data collection, and community empowerment. They are building tools to connect these volunteers on public service contacts, a notification system, and learning materials.

Working in humanitarian contexts to contribute to Health Systems Strengthening

- In Jordan, UNFPA contributed to zero maternal mortality rate in Zaatari camp. Currently, UNFPA is working with the MOH in Jordan to document what is transferable from Zaatari camp to further strengthen the national system. UNFPA is also working with the Ministry of Planning to look into RHCS and link family planning to national economic progress in the context of helping Jordan achieve SDGs.
- In South Sudan, in the context of health system strengthening, UNFPA implemented a programme, started in 2012, to increase the number of trained midwives that now total 500 (from 9 in 2012). These UNFPA-trained midwives are able to respond to humanitarian situations as part of a strengthened national health system.

Gender-Based Violence

- In Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp, reporting of GBV incidents was low. When GBVIMS data was used to engage community members, leaders emerged as advocates for women's issues and became instrumental in improving the safety and security of survivors.
- In Tanzania, GBVIMS data showed that people experienced a high risk of sexual violence when collecting firewood outside the Nyarugusu camp. To prevent GBV and to improve safety and food security, an inter-agency campaign was begun to construct fuel-efficient mud stoves and promote the use of biomass bricks.
- In Liberia, intimate partner violence (IPV) is not illegal. UNFPA implementing partners used GBVIMS data to expose IPV as an acute problem and to advocate for a change in national law. GBVIMS data supported the drafting of the country's first Domestic Violence Act.

Population data

- UNFPA through its partnership with OCHA, its network of 130 country offices and longstanding collaboration with national statistical offices, have integrated population data built upon census data, registry data and surveys. Thematic surveys of Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) developed by United Nations Humanitarian Country Teams, notably in Syria and Libya, have also contributed to construction and refinement of common operational datasets on population statistics. UNFPA also provided technical guidance to national authorities in Ecuador and Peru, which resulted in updated small area population estimates disaggregated by age and sex. Overlaid with geospatial data, the estimates ensured population data preparedness and guided rapid evidence-based disaster response to vulnerable sub-populations in need.
- UNFPA Latin America & Caribbean Office - Innovation Fund Project on population data preparedness: This is a solid demonstration of UNFPA leveraging census data to ensure humanitarian preparedness. LACRO put together updated subnational population projections for Ecuador, integrated it with other spatial data to come up with improved

small area estimates at the parish level, and disseminated these key population data through cloud computing tools. This now has pre-positioned the relevant population data tools in the cloud to facilitate rapid response in the wake of a sudden onset disaster.