



UNFPA Submission to 2024 HLPF Thematic Review of Progress

2024 HLPF [Website here](#)

Theme: “**Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions**” ([A/DEC/77/553](#))

SDGs under review: **Goal 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 13 (climate actions), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), 17 (data and partnerships).**

UNFPA is requested by the President of ECOSOC (Permanent Representative of Chile) to provide substantive inputs to the review of the 2024 HLPF theme and the SDGs undergoing in-depth review (as noted above), from its vantage point, and to reflect on relevant follow up to the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, as well as to provide inputs to the Outcome of the HLPF- the Ministerial Declaration.

The inputs below are in response to the **five guiding questions** provided in the ECOSOC President’s [letter](#).

Guiding Questions from DESA

The following template could be considered in providing inputs, considering your intergovernmental body’s mandate and views:

(a) **Impacts of multiple crises on the** implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body.

(b) **Three key areas** where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are **being effectively delivered**, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets. (c) **Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed** to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.

(d) **Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken** by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

(e) **Recommendations and key messages** for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.

UNFPA Responses

Question (a) Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs – Goal 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 13 (climate actions), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), 17 (data and partnerships) – from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body.

SDG 1 - No Poverty

- **Poverty has a decidedly female face, which hinders efforts towards gender equality.** Poverty is multidimensional in nature and its impacts are disproportionately worse for women than for men. Crises can disproportionately affect women and girls, who often face greater economic vulnerabilities and barriers to accessing resources. This can exacerbate poverty rates among women and girls, hindering progress towards gender equality.
- **Poverty impedes access to SRHR and vice versa. *Limited access to sexual and reproductive health services and information can further perpetuate poverty cycles by limiting women's ability to control their reproductive lives and make informed decisions about their future.*** Lack of SRHR services and poor reproductive health outcomes can have negative effects on overall health, and, under certain circumstances, on education and household well-being, further exacerbating poverty.
- Women in the poorest households may find themselves with limited or no access to sexual and reproductive health care, leading to unintended pregnancies, and lack of skilled birth attendance which in turn leads to higher risks of illness or death from pregnancy or childbirth. For these women, their poor sexual and reproductive health can limit their opportunities and potential, and deepen economic disadvantages for them, their children, families and communities.
- With deepening poverty comes direct and indirect impacts on food security, health and access to essential services, gender inequality is exacerbated, with women and girls bearing the brunt, **including the additional burden of unpaid care work.**

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

- As we have seen, multiple crises can disrupt food systems, leading to food shortages, price spikes, and reduced access to nutritious food. **This in turn worsens hunger and malnutrition, especially among vulnerable populations- pregnant and nursing individuals, children and older persons, among other groups.**
- **Women and girls are often responsible for food production and household nutrition, making them particularly vulnerable to food insecurity during crises.** Limited access to resources and services can exacerbate malnutrition and hunger among women and children. Restrictions on mobility and access to healthcare services during crises can impede women's ability to access essential maternal and child health services, **including antenatal care and nutrition support.**
- **On every continent, the prevalence of food insecurity is higher among women than**

men. This often occurs even in the same household and even if women are pregnant or breastfeeding. **Food insecurity and malnutrition are also linked to child marriage.**¹

- The 54th session of the Commission on Population and Development² considered the theme “*Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development*”. The Commission, in its [outcome](#), stressed that the **COVID-19 pandemic further deepened women’s vulnerabilities, undermining their access to food and disrupting important antenatal and postnatal services, including nutrition support for pregnant and lactating individuals.**
- **The linkages between food security, nutrition and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are pronounced.** Food insecurity leads to malnutrition in pregnant women, increasing the risks of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Malnutrition of women, in particular of reproductive age, weakens their ability to survive childbirth, makes them more susceptible to infections, and leaves them with fewer reserves to recover from illness.
- Rapid unplanned population growth during crises can further strain food resources, making it challenging to achieve SDG 2 targets of ending hunger and ensuring food security. Efforts to increase education, prevent child marriage, reduce adolescent pregnancy, and provide access to family planning, SRH information and education can inform choices that improve livelihoods, nutrition and the overall health and wellbeing of women and children, further supporting food security.
- **Ensuring food security is crucial for the health of pregnant individuals and their children, especially during the first 1000 days.** Adequate nutrition for all supports the development of a healthy next generation emphasizing the intersectionality of SRH with nutrition, as it impacts not only individuals but also the broader community.
- **Women, especially in rural areas, are instrumental in the fight against hunger and malnutrition** and in making food systems more productive and sustainable yet, they do not enjoy equality with men when it comes to assets, land, food and nutrition, work opportunities, education and participation in decision making.
- **Food insecurity affects women disproportionately and has a range of gendered impacts, including well-established links to gender-based violence (GBV). This is particularly acute in humanitarian contexts due to overlapping risks including conflict, fragility, climate induced crises and displacement.** Food insecurity can increase the risk of exposure to gender-based violence, due to three ‘conditions’; 1) the lack of food; 2) the search for food; and 3) access to food aid. GBV also impacts agricultural productivity and resilience of survivors and their families as a result of negative health consequences and adoption of negative coping strategies. Further, food security and agriculture interventions can unintentionally create new risks or even worsen GBV,

¹ *idem*

² [Contribution](#) of the 54th session of the CPD to the 2021 HLPF

particularly if the sociocultural context and specific protection risks are not well understood and taken into consideration.

SDG 13 - Climate Action

- **The impact of the climate crises on populations in most vulnerable situations around the world remains a major threat to the vision of human-centered sustainable development outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action.** Climate change is a multiplier of existing health vulnerabilities for women, adolescent girls and young people, including insufficient access to safe water and improved sanitation, food insecurity, and impacts on access to and utilization of health care and education. **Failure to realize sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) can hamper women and girls' ability to engage in climate action and gender-sensitive policy making.** By hindering opportunities for education, skills development and sustainable livelihoods, gaps in the realization of SRHR can prevent women and young people from taking part in household and community decision-making with negative consequences for their wellbeing, local and national economies.
- **Climate-related disasters can have differential impacts on women's health and well-being, particularly in terms of sexual and reproductive health.** Displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased health risks can affect women's access to SRHR services and information.
- **Growing evidence points to multiple potential threats of climate change on reproductive health and reproductive choice,** including lower fertility aspirations, greater difficulty conceiving, exacerbation of gender inequality including increased risk of gender-based violence, miscarriage, risks to a healthy pregnancy, and in acute climate-related emergencies - reduced access to health care. Environmental crises can lead to breakdowns in the delivery of essential services, worsening health outcomes for all. In general, the climate crisis exacerbates pre-existing inequalities, including gender equality, and the myriad of inequalities affecting access to housing, transport, information, and other resources, and exposing women to heightened risks of gender-based violence, human trafficking, and displacement.
- **Women are often underrepresented in decision-making processes related to climate action and environmental management, limiting their ability to advocate for gender-responsive policies and programmes that address SRHR needs in the context of climate change.**
- **Women and girls therefore bear a disproportionate brunt of climate impacts, with their safety, health and livelihoods affected. The climate crisis and gender inequality are inextricably linked.** In most contexts, structural gender inequality limits women's and girl's access to resources and opportunities and impacts their autonomy to make decisions about their own lives, **reducing their coping capacities and resilience to disasters.** The Climate crisis intensifies vulnerabilities and inequalities, threatening hard-won development gains and contributing to **displacement and heightened**

protection risks, notably gender-based violence, poverty and resource scarcity, which can exacerbate tensions and trigger conflicts.

- There is significant evidence **linking the climate crisis, particularly climate-related disasters, to increased vulnerability to GBV, including sexual violence, transactional sex, and sex trafficking.** In addition, when natural resources become scarce due to climate change, girls and women travel farther distances to secure food and water, which can increase their risk of exposure to harm- including sexual and/or physical abuse.
- **Increased humanitarian and economic crises and climate shocks exacerbate food insecurity.** Climate change and associated severe weather, droughts, fires, pests and diseases have been threatening efforts to ensure universal nutrition and food security. Unless governments act decisively, these problems will worsen, causing disproportionate suffering among the poorest and most vulnerable.
- **The impacts of climate change will not be felt equally, between or within countries. Geospatial data** are vital to understanding the differential exposure, vulnerability and adaptive capacity of populations, and to help ensure that no one is left behind in adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- **Population policies motivated by concerns for environmental impact should heed the lesson of ICPD that respect for reproductive rights, advancing women's empowerment, and better education and health, including sexual and reproductive health care services, offer the most effective means to smaller families, and they also contribute to a skilled, empowered population that can develop the innovations we need for sustainability.** No matter the population trajectory, the key sectors that influence emissions – electricity, transport, construction, manufacturing, agriculture, land use and forestry – must urgently shift to low emissions.

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- Crises like conflicts and political instability can undermine peace, stability, and the rule of law, affecting governance, human rights, and access to justice as we see unfolding in the world today. Beyond the grave consequences for human life and wellbeing, ongoing conflicts further strain resources, exacerbate tensions, and hinder efforts to build strong institutions and promote inclusive societies.
- **Sustainable development is not possible without sustained peace.** Crises such as conflicts and displacement **increase vulnerabilities to gender-based violence, including sexual violence and exploitation.** Limited access to justice and support services can further perpetuate cycles of violence and impunity.
- **Peaceful and inclusive societies are those in which the rights and fundamental freedoms of all its peoples are promoted and respected, and no one is left behind.** This must include women's full and effective participation in political, economic and social life and ensuring accessible and responsive justice and security institutions.

- **Women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes is essential for sustainable peace and security.** Crises can disrupt women's participation and leadership opportunities, hindering progress towards gender equality and inclusive governance.
- **Young people are powerful actors of change** and key stakeholders in building and sustaining peace, resolving conflict and preventing violence. They contribute to social cohesion by building peace from the most local levels, working on different forms of conflict and types of violence, through community and intergenerational dialogue and mediation, gender-inclusive negotiation, and conflict resolution.
- **The full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of women and girls in all aspects of the WPS agenda must be prioritized.** More must be done to ensure women and women-led organizations have a visible seat at the table during peace negotiations and are supported to play a role as negotiators at all levels. Out of the 18 peace agreements reached in 2022, only one was signed or witnessed by a representative of a women's group or organization.
- **Young people, women adolescents and girls, are primary victims of violent conflict,** including through increased risks of multiple forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. Prioritizing their protection in conflict and post-conflict settings, as well as dedicated protection mechanisms for young peacebuilders through targeted programming, should be a priority.
- **Collection and analyses of sex and age disaggregated data to better understand the realities of women and young people's experiences in times of conflict and post-conflict is needed.** Data systems need to be developed to track investments in young people, similar to those tracking funding for gender equality and women's rights.

SDG 17 - Means of Implementation- Partnerships for the goals, Disaggregated Data

- Crises can disrupt collaboration and partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector, affecting the mobilization of resources and the sharing and transfer of knowledge and expertise- all crucial aspects of SDG 17 and key avenues of collaboration in the '*whole of society approach*' that is needed to make the 2030 Agenda a reality. Collaborative efforts to promote gender equality, SRHR, and women's empowerment may be disrupted during crises, affecting the mobilization of resources and the implementation of programmes and services for the most vulnerable population groups, including women and girls.
- Likewise **shifting demographics requires context specific and innovative approaches to sustainable development cooperation, partnerships and data utilization.** The extent to which population data is integrated into sustainable development policies and programmes has a significant impact on the effectiveness and results of said policies. Ongoing crises disrupts all sectors, negatively impacting data collection and

availability while simultaneously increasing the need for specific and disaggregated data to better target interventions in crisis situations.

- Strengthening partnerships and coordination between governments, civil society, and the private sector is crucial for advancing gender equality and SRHR in crisis settings, ensuring that the needs and rights of women and girls are prioritized.
- **Diversity, equity and fairness have not always been prioritized in digital solutions, and the evidence base available is limited.** Data revealing the existence of inequalities can be used to further galvanize action toward the achievement of the SDGs. Quality data is needed to track and monitor progress and ensure that objectives are met. Where data does not exist, it must be created by collective inputs from all stakeholders, with careful consideration made to the possible limitations and biases of data sets.
- **Investing in human capital, including health, gender equality and education, are powerful contributors for inclusive, rights-based and sustainable development.** The recent pandemic reinforced the economic case for strong and resilient health systems. Investments in strengthening national and subnational health systems, universal health coverage, essential health services, including SRHR services, should be prioritised as a tool to retain long-term development targets.
- **SDG target [17.18](#) called for scaling up of international cooperation to support statistical capacity-building and data challenges and had a timeline of 2020 which has since been missed.** The global pandemic further underscored persisting data gaps, emerging challenges, and the urgent need to effectively leverage disaggregated data to identify and target those most left behind, and to reach the furthest behind first. The [UN Secretary General's Data Strategy 2020-22](#) reaffirmed the critical role of data in the Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs by 2030, identifying the gender data gap as a core priority.

In conclusion, the ongoing multiple crises do pose significant challenges to the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17, particularly in the broader context of population and development issues and the goals of the ICPD Agenda to realize universal access to SRHR for all. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach that considers the interconnected nature of these goals and the diverse needs of populations affected by crises.

Question (b) Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

1. Women's Empowerment, Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture (Interlinkage with SDG 2 and SDG 5):

Initiatives that focus on women's empowerment in agriculture and rural development not only contribute to achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving food security and nutrition but also promote gender equality (SDG 5) and reduce poverty (SDG 1). These initiatives provide women

with access to resources, training, and technology to enhance agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and increase resilience to climate change (SDG 13). By ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles, these programmes also contribute to building strong institutions (SDG 16) and fostering partnerships (SDG 17) for sustainable development.

2. Integrating SRHR within Primary Health Care and Well-being Programmes (Interlinkage with SDG 3 and SDG 17):**

Integrated community health programmes that address maternal and child health, infectious diseases, and non-communicable diseases contribute to achieving SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) while promoting partnerships (SDG 17) among various stakeholders.

These programmes, when designed with a gender-sensitive approach, can also empower women and girls (SDG 5) by providing them with access to essential healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health services.

By strengthening community resilience to health emergencies and climate-related health risks, these initiatives also support efforts to achieve SDG 13 (Climate Action) and build sustainable, inclusive health systems.

3. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding with Gender Equality Focus (Interlinkage with SDG 16 and SDG 5)

Peacebuilding initiatives that prioritize gender equality and women's participation in conflict resolution processes contribute to achieving SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by promoting inclusive governance and reducing violence and conflict.

By addressing gender-based violence and ensuring women's rights and voices are heard in peace processes, these initiatives also advance SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and support the empowerment of women and girls.

Sustainable and resilient peacebuilding efforts not only contribute to reducing poverty and inequality (SDG 1) but also foster partnerships (SDG 17) among diverse actors to address the root causes of conflict and promote sustainable development.

4. Integrating Population Dynamics into sustainable development policies and programmes to accelerate sustainable development progress.

Recognizing that the world has changed and demographic shifts will continue to shape our world and future, population dynamics should be leveraged to advance sustainable development progress in a demographically diverse world of 8 billion. We can build thriving, inclusive societies regardless of population size. To do so, we must rethink how we talk about and plan for population change. Building upon the core principles of the ICPD PoA, accelerating progress towards the SDGs requires shifting to a policy paradigm which applies a bottom-up, rights based approach to building the human capacity to thrive in light of demographic change, enabling all people to maximize their potential and live in health and well-being throughout the life course. This also

requires strengthening support to countries to enhance data systems to reach those furthest behind, and placing greater emphasis on metrics that capture individual human dignity, resilience, social progress and inequalities, such as healthy life expectancy and maternal mortality ratios.

5. Data as a critical accelerator for the 2030 Agenda

Intensifying efforts to strengthen national and international data systems to collect timely and reliable data on SDG progress and to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries is critical for advancing progress on the SDGs. Targeted investments in gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data are critical, as **SDG 5 has one of the largest data deficits**, with only 48% of the data needed to monitor targets. Population data is essential not only to understand the changing characteristics and needs of the population, but also to ensure evidence-based decision making. In that vein: **We must redouble efforts towards enhanced generation and utilization of disaggregated data**, including by leveraging gender disaggregation and transformative approaches that reveal and tackle inequalities in access to health and social services and strengthening national statistical capacities.

Question (c) Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs:

These include:

1. Investing in Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Gender-Responsive Health Systems

- Governments and stakeholders should prioritize investments in UHC that integrates SRHR at every level, and ensure that health systems are resilient, inclusive, and accessible to all, with a specific focus on addressing the health needs of women and girls and other key vulnerable groups.

Policy: Implement policies that promote gender-responsive healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health services, maternity care, including access to safe abortion care where legal and quality post abortion care everywhere, and mental health and psychosocial support to ensure that no one is left behind in accessing quality healthcare.

Measure: Track progress towards achieving UHC (SDG 3.8.1) and gender equality in health by monitoring indicators related to women's health outcomes, access to services, bodily autonomy, and participation in decision-making processes within health systems (SDGs 5.6.1 & 5.6.2)

2. Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment and Access to Resources

Action: Create economic opportunities for women by promoting gender-responsive employment policies, providing access to finance, land rights, and entrepreneurship support, and addressing barriers to women's participation in the workforce.

Policy: Enact policies that eliminate gender-based discrimination in the workplace, ensure equal pay for equal work, and support paid family leave, as well as women's access to education and skills training to enhance their economic opportunities.

Measure: Monitor progress in women's economic empowerment through indicators such as labor force participation rates, income and wealth equality by sex, access to financial services, and women's ownership of assets and land.

3. Strengthening Social Protection Systems and Gender-Responsive Policies:

Action: Expand social protection systems to provide a safety net for vulnerable populations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, through cash transfers, subsidized healthcare, and other social assistance programmes.

Policy: Develop and implement gender-responsive social protection policies that address the specific needs of women, girls, and young people, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to comprehensive sexuality education, childcare support, and access to essential services such as education and skills building.

Measure: Evaluate the impact of social protection programmes on poverty reduction, gender equality, and health outcomes by conducting LNOB analysis and monitoring key indicators related to poverty rates, income inequality, access to social services, and well-being of marginalized groups.

Question (d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

UNFPA is a co-lead and core member of two of the 12 High Impact Initiatives launched at the 2023 SDG Summit.

- The High Impact Initiative on the **Power of Data**, co-led by UNFPA and other agencies, was launched in September 2023 to unlock the data dividend to drive progress on the SDGs and to strengthen disaggregated data to leave no one behind. Through UNFPA's unique role in the collection, analysis and use of population data for development, we have much to contribute to these efforts. In the countries in which we operate, we have been promoting the greater disaggregation of data to strengthen the visibility of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, international migrants, older persons, indigenous peoples, persons of African-descent and LGBTQI populations. This initiative enables the UN entities to better leverage the High Impact Initiatives' platform, and the SDG Summit, to hone in on the universality of the Spotlight model for supporting governments around the world to develop national emergency response plans to GBV using the approach, methodologies, and tools of the Spotlight Initiative.
- Another one of 12 High Impact Initiatives (HIIs) launched at the 2023 SDG Summit, **the Spotlight Initiatives** vision for impact notes that **Investing in women and girls is our greatest and most underused path to accelerate the full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**. It notes that the SDGs will only be achieved if every

woman and every girl, everywhere, can live a life of dignity and security, free from violence. **Spotlight Initiative is the world's largest effort to end violence against women and girls, and UNFPA remains a founding member of this effort.** Based on an independent assessment, the Initiative's approach will have **prevented violence for more than 21 million women and girls by 2025 , saving at least two lives a day.** And through its unique comprehensive approach, Spotlight Initiative supports progress on multiple fronts: education, reproductive health, economic empowerment. The Initiative demonstrates the capacity of this holistic model to eliminate violence against women and girls, advance gender equality, and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. However there is an urgent need to scale up investment and reinforce efforts at all levels and from all actors to meet the ambition of target SDG 5.2. Furthermore, this High Impact Initiative will drive progress not only on SDG5, but across all SDGs. The 2030 Agenda can only be achieved if women and men are genuinely treated as equals; evidence shows that investing in ending violence against women and girls leads to concrete results across ALL the SDGs.

- **The Equity 2030 Alliance-** UNFPA in collaboration with key partners recently launched the Equity 2030 Alliance- a global effort to accelerate gender equity in science, technology and financing by 2030 that envisions a world of infinite opportunities for all. The Alliance leverages the collective power of positive disruptors to close the gender-equity gap in science and technology design. The Alliance seeks to accelerate actions to normalize gender equity in science and technology by introducing data-driven arguments and strategies. We believe our actions will lead to an inclusive, sustainable and gender-equitable future in which women's voices are heard, their needs are met and their potential is fulfilled.
- **UNFPA Equalizer Accelerator Fund** aims to equalize opportunities for women and girls and ensure rights and choices for all through innovation. It provides new funding and financing options in UNFPA's mandate areas of sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, maternal health, and data. UNFPA's presence in 150 countries and territories means we are well positioned to deliver even in places that are hard to reach. And we make sure to share successes across countries and communities so the benefits are felt far and wide. Since collaboration maximizes reach and impact, the Equalizer Accelerator Fund draws on UNFPA's deep and diverse global network of partners, service providers, activists and governments.

Question (e) Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF:

Preamble

- **An urgent change of course, grounded in a renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation - as called for in Our Common Agenda - will enable the rescue of the SDGs.** Ahead of the Summit of the Future, this HLPF session is a critical opportunity to mobilize action to support our common goals, notably on gender equality, upholding human rights, including SRHR, as a means to ensure that no woman, girl, young person, or other vulnerable group is left behind on the road to sustainable development.

- **In this 30th anniversary year of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)**, the international community must fulfill its commitments and leverage multi-stakeholder opportunities to accelerate the achievement of commitments of the ICPD which aligns strongly with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Demographic diversity

- **We recognize that the world has changed and demographic shifts will continue to shape our world and future.** Population dynamics should be leveraged to advance sustainable development progress in a demographically diverse world of 8 billion. We can build thriving, inclusive societies regardless of population size. To do so, we must rethink how we talk about and plan for population change. We must strengthen support to countries to enhance data systems to reach those furthest behind, and place greater emphasis on metrics that capture individual human dignity, resilience, social progress and inequalities, such as healthy life expectancy and maternal mortality ratios.

Gender Equality & Empowerment of Women & Girls

- **Strengthen Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:** Hard won gains in girls’ and women’s educational attainment and political representation must be protected and advanced, while much deeper work is needed to address continuing shortfalls in girls’ and women’s health and nutrition, their burdens of unpaid work, and their obstacles to formal employment, social protection and economic power, and freedom from fear and violence.
- **Establish gender responsive policies that help recognize, reduce, and redistribute women’s disproportionate reproductive labor or unpaid care work burden,** through financial support for families, quality and affordable childcare and care arrangements for older persons, flexible work arrangements, more equal parental leave provisions for both parents, and measures that promote equitable gender norms including men’s participation in care work.
- **Gender equality must be urgently prioritized in recovery efforts if we are to truly leave no one behind and achieve the SDGs.** The full implementation of the SDGs requires countries to address long-term gender inequality in society. The COVID-19 pandemic further underscored the need to systematically integrate a gender and intersectional lens and a gender transformative outlook prior to emergency situations so that in times of crisis, governments are already prepared to target and address the needs of women and girls and the most vulnerable in societies. **SDG 5 is not a standalone agenda but rather gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, should be integrated into core government work across the board,** requiring enhanced policy infrastructure for gender equality, strengthened gender-responsive budgeting, gender transformative approaches, and quality disaggregated data. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remain key accelerators for sustainable development progress.

Health and SRHR

- **Improve Life-long Reproductive Health and Mental Health:** Ample evidence highlights that ensuring all pregnancies are intended, all deliveries are safe, and all adolescents can achieve their potential is fundamental to development. Governments are encouraged to invest in the numerous cost-effective and proven interventions that can ensure maternal nutrition, access to modern contraceptives, and high quality maternal health care. SRH services should include care for STIs, infertility and assisted reproduction. As the burden of mental health and psychosocial stress continues to rise, extracting a toll on human potential in all countries, far greater national investments are needed to understand and address underlying causes, and provide effective prevention and treatments. Recognizing that health at all ages is the prerequisite for healthy ageing, **Universal Health Coverage should be expanded**, accelerated through primary health care (PHC), and complemented by dedicated efforts to expand the health workforce world-wide.
- Noting also, our global interdependence, interconnectedness and solidarity, we recognise that the world is only as strong as its weakest health system and reaffirm that health is a precondition for, and indicator & accelerator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda³, and in this context; stress the **importance of holistically strengthening health systems, ensuring these systems are climate resilient and integrating SRHR in UHC including at the Primary Health Care levels.**

Climate Action

- **Strengthen Shared Climate Action:** Governments and the international community should strengthen and integrate, as a matter of priority, human rights principles within climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, with particular attention to those most affected but least able to adapt to climate impacts. Countries are called upon to restructure unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, ending the use of fossil fuels, promoting green energy, promoting restorative agriculture and food systems, and to balance the future health of people and the planet.
- **Climate action is crucial in safeguarding rights and choices for all**, particularly the populations in most vulnerable situations. We urge all actors to recognize SRHR as fundamental to climate resilience, as it ensures that reproductive rights and essential services remain protected during climate-induced disruptions. To build a just and sustainable world, we must integrate climate action with efforts to promote human rights, gender equality, and youth empowerment, securing a future where rights and choices are preserved for every individual.

Data

³ [2019 UHC Political Declaration](#)

- **Quality, disaggregated data remains a critical accelerator for delivering on the SDGs.** The gendered, racially and other differentiated nature of the pandemic's impacts must be emphasized in our data collection, reporting, and response. Targeted investments in gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data are critical, as **SDG 5 has one of the largest data deficits, with only 48% of the data needed to monitor targets.** UNFPA, as the lead agency on population data (capitalizing on long-standing support for population censuses and demographic intelligence), is working with countries and the United Nations system to build stronger population data systems that support leaving no one behind.

Adolescents and Youth

- **Addressing the needs of and supporting young people's meaningful engagement, agency and leadership is a critical lever to SDG attainment.** Supporting young people as they go through life's transitions – from adolescence and education to family formation and work to old age – without risk of being derailed by conflict, violence or displacement, child marriage or teenage pregnancy, maternal mortality or morbidity, exposure to harmful practices, conflict, or the pain of any form of discrimination, will be critical in supporting the achievement of sustainable development and peace. More efforts are required to provide young people with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, supporting countries to reap the demographic dividend. The 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum provided space for youth to discuss and contribute to the SDG Summit to be held in September, as young people see themselves as agents of change who play an integral role in SDG implementation.
- More efforts are required to provide **adolescents and youth with a nurturing environment** for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, supporting countries to reap the demographic dividend. Recognizing that addressing the needs of adolescents and youth is a critical lever to engage young people as leaders and agents of change, and to leave no one behind, we call for targeted investments to strengthen the capabilities of adolescents and youth, uphold their rights and empower them as critical change agents for current and future generations.

Financing for development

- **We recognize the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries from all sources.** Scalable sustainable financing, including increased domestic and international public and private financing, is essential to ensure that we reach the SDGs, leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, particularly women and girls, adolescents and youth.
- Increase international financing, including public and private financing, for the accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, to complement and catalyze domestic financing, in particular of sexual and reproductive health programmes, and other supportive measures and interventions that promote gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment. Use national budget processes to ensure full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. This includes gender

budgeting and auditing, increasing domestic financing and exploring new, participatory and innovative financing instruments and structures.

UN Reform

- **A reformed United Nations development system will be crucial to better support countries in their efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda.** The UN system must ensure that global norms and standards, including on women’s rights, are leading efforts at the country level to address multiple global crises. Our Common Agenda and its recommendations are a foundation for the renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation needed to rescue the SDGs.

Annex:

Field examples of UNFPA’s collaboration with other UN agencies

- In the Philippines, UNFPA is part of a joint programme (UNDP-UNICEF-UNFPA) on an integrated national financing framework for SDG focusing on Demographic Dividend. The Joint Programme (JP) intends to apply the building blocks of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to provide catalytic support, tools, technical assistance for strengthening systems, coordination and consensus building on priorities as part of a whole of government approach in support of the “We Recover As One”. A review of the JP’s design highlighted its responsiveness, among others, to finance and coordinate multi-sector priority SDG programmes that reduce future expenditure requirements for the SDGs and mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the country’s trajectory towards achieving the SDGs and harnessing the demographic dividend. This will be achieved by 1. Employing the demographic dividend as a thematic test case given its complex, interdependent, and intersectoral nature, build national government’s capacity for evidence-based budgeting and performance-oriented expenditure tracking system within an integrated national financing framework and 2. Addressing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, particularly on the country’s trajectory towards achieving the SDGs and the Demographic Dividend.
- In Peru, UNFPA generated a solid evidence base and provided demographic data and further analysis to contribute to the CCA and allow for the inclusion of explicit reference to the three transformative results (specifically SRHR, GBV prevention and response) in the UNSDCF proposed outcomes. This enabled UNFPA country programme (CP) priorities to be fully integrated in the proposed common framework. Noteworthy is the participatory process embedded in the formulation of both the CP and the UNSDCF, which implied (i) wide and representative consultations of CP proposed outputs, pathways and accelerators with government actors under the umbrella of the UNFPA CP 2017-2021

National Coordination Committee, co-led with MoFA and the Peruvian Agency for International Development, and (ii) joint UNFPA-UNDP-UNICEF consultations on the theories of change. This represents good practice in terms of both UNFPA advocacy and evidence-based collaboration within the UNCT, and effective interagency coordination and promotion of external actors' participation in several phases of the process.

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNFPA, FAO and UN Women, signed a two-year joint work plan to accelerate progress in gender equality and the empowerment of rural women. The action plan proposed by these three UN agencies is structured around two areas. The first focuses on high-level political and policy advocacy to accelerate the reduction of the gender gap in access to productive resources (land, water, and fishing) to achieve food and nutritional security in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 5 (Gender Equality). The second priority is to promote rural coverage of care services, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence in the region and the production of data and information on rural women in the framework of agrifood systems, incorporating data on their physical, economic, and decision-making autonomy.
- In Bolivia, within the new UNSDCF, UNFPA, in partnership with other UN organizations, has invested efforts in ensuring that climate change, currently positioned within the productive sector (agriculture, food system, etc), is also linked to other sectors, particularly social sectors (health, education, and protection), given its multifaceted impacts.
- In Honduras, UNFPA coordinated with WFP in 2023 a joint effort to participate in field visits, especially in the area of Corredor Seco, which was hit very hard by climatic impacts that undermined food security in the region. UNFPA complemented a WFP training on nutritional aspects by speaking to the Nutrition of the Pregnant Women specifically. This was used as an entry point to address Sexual Reproductive Health and the need for women to better understand the different family planning methods, and underscore the need to space out successive pregnancies and to follow up on regular visits for early detection of cervical cancer and other health-related issues. Plans ahead include the preparation of communications material on positive masculinities to help transform the Rural Culture of Gender roles, and joint meetings with FAO, WFP, and FIDA to see how the agencies can join forces and resources for a more integral approach to this purpose.
- In Madagascar, UNFPA supported a digital incubation space, where young people can develop innovative ideas and projects on advancing UNFPA's mandate. The space contributes to ensuring access to digital learning, especially for young girls and offers free access to a range of information and communication technology tools. It seeks to address infrastructural difficulties faced by youth in relation to Internet access, lack of constant electricity supply and the need for ICT tools to learn, develop and share digital solutions.
- In Paraguay, UNFPA supported and expanded the promotion of digital inclusion through e-health services, including through the development of a "Prenatal Control App" for mobile devices, which contains information from the prenatal control booklet and seeks to reach more pregnant women, in particular in more remote rural or indigenous contexts.

- In Serbia, through a joint programme, UNFPA together with UNICEF and UNHCR held a workshop on “Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock-responsiveness.” The workshop was attended by key government ministries and agencies along with civil society, academia and the UNCT. The joint programme aims to (i) strengthen the data response on the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable groups to feed into the introduction of legislative changes for adaptive social protection system (ii) apply the shock-responsive social protection principles to provide support for the 170 most vulnerable families. UNFPA conducted an assessment of the impact of poverty on older persons, and obtained valuable data when it comes to the discrimination of older persons, social isolation and poverty. To this end, UNFPA was able to identify people who are outside of the social protection system, who live on the edge of existence, and remain invisible and left behind.
- At the regional-level, UNFPA has effectively leveraged its technical capacities at the regional-level to provide increased support to UNCTs. For example in EECARO, as co-chair of the IBC on gender, UNFPA worked with UN Women to conduct rapid assessment on women’s needs and GBV as a result of COVID-19. The results of these analyses influence responses at country, regional and global levels and identify funding gaps. Also in EECARO, as co-chair of the IBC on youth, UNFPA worked with UNICEF to develop regional guidance on the factors that need to be considered in engaging adolescents and youth in assessing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and within recovery efforts. The guidance sought to ensure that the response by UNCTs and governments are youth-inclusive and youth-focused. Additionally, in ESARO, as co-chair of the IBC on data and statistics, UNFPA contributed to the timely design and launch of Africa’s UN Knowledge Hub on COVID19 underscored the ability of the UNDS to effectively collaborate on regional issues.