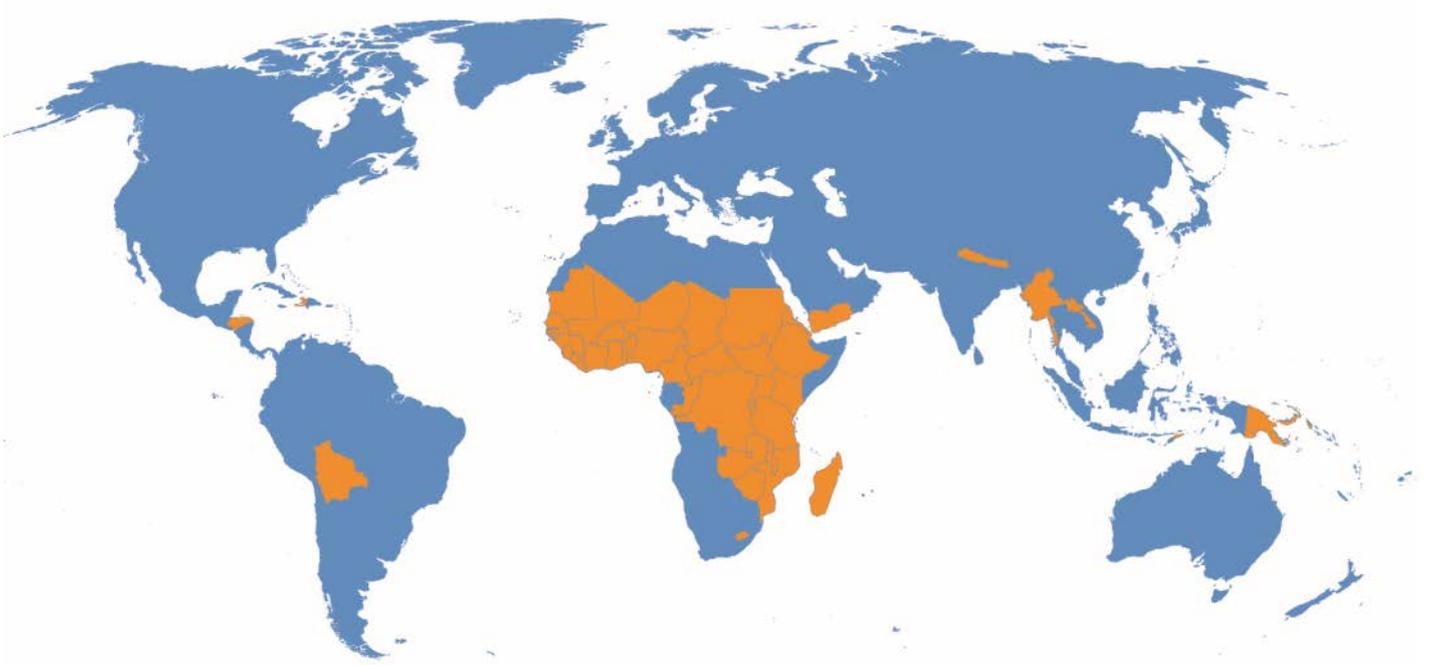




UNFPA Supplies Annual Report 2017

Executive Summary



Where we work

Asia & the Pacific

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Myanmar
Nepal
Papua New Guinea
Timor-Leste

Middle East

Djibouti
Sudan
Yemen

Latin America & Caribbean

Bolivia
Haiti
Honduras

East & Southern Africa

Burundi
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malawi
Mozambique
Rwanda
South Sudan
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

West & Central Africa

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

UNFPA Supplies also provides strategic support to other countries in response to humanitarian crises, to support Family Planning 2020 commitments, and to implement the UNFPA Family Planning Strategy.

Cover photo: A young woman obtains family planning information and supplies at a youth centre in Punata, Cochabamba Department, Bolivia. © UNFPA Bolivia/2018/NOOR/Sanne De Wilde.

Map disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Message from the Executive Director



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development guides and inspires our strategies to expand access to and use of family planning by women and girls in some of the world's poorest countries. It is transformational, aspirational and creating a movement that embraces priorities with sustainable impact. One of these priorities is at the heart of our work at UNFPA: family planning.

Within the Sustainable Development Goals, family planning is part of Goal 3 on health and Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. The impact of family planning is much wider, however, because we will never end poverty and hunger (Goals 1 and 2), ensure quality education for all (Goal 4) or promote sustained economic growth (Goal 8) unless every woman and adolescent girl has access to quality, rights-based family planning services.

Yet, there are still more than 200 million women in developing countries who want to avoid or delay pregnancy but are not using modern contraception. Globally, the impact of fully meeting the need for family planning would be staggering: we could reduce maternal mortality by a quarter, and unintended pregnancies by three quarters. This is why we have made ending unmet need for family planning one of the three transformative results of the UNFPA Strategic Plan for the next four years, which will contribute to achieving Agenda 2030. Based on our experiences and successes in supporting countries over the past decade, I am confident that one of the best mechanisms we have to help achieve this result is our dedicated thematic fund for family planning, UNFPA Supplies.

Through UNFPA Supplies, 46 countries are working to achieve a secure, steady and reliable supply of contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines and to build much-needed capacity in the systems and services that sustain their access and use.

UNFPA Supplies focuses, in particular, on reaching those who face the greatest barriers to accessing reproductive health services, including family planning. Ensuring we reach the poorest women and young people, those living in rural areas and with lower levels of education, who often have the least access to services, is vital for attaining universal health coverage and a cornerstone of sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

The UNFPA Supplies Annual Report 2017 shows steady progress in the programme's efforts to sustain secure supplies of contraceptives so that every couple, every woman, and every young person can access a choice of affordable, quality products when and where they need them. It's their right, and it's the right thing to do – for individuals, societies and nations.

**Dr. Natalia Kanem,
UNFPA Executive Director**

Message from Chief Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA



The world is reaching more women and girls than ever before with access to a choice of quality contraceptives, but more must be done to accelerate progress towards universal access to reproductive health. In 46 countries, the UNFPA Supplies programme is building capacity to meet the unmet need for family planning, ensure sustained financing for family planning, and go the last mile for hard-to-reach women and adolescent girls. In 2017, the programme provided technical assistance to build capacity in human resource for health and in supply chain management. In addition, contraceptives provided by UNFPA Supplies in 2017 had potential to avert an estimated 7.5 million unintended pregnancies; 18,000 maternal deaths; 114,000 child deaths; and 2.3 million unsafe abortions.

UNFPA Supplies plays a catalytic and supporting role in 46 of the world's lowest-income countries — all with high maternal mortality and high unmet need for family planning — helping to build stronger health systems to ensure that contraceptives and maternal health medicines are available to all who need them. The programme provides technical assistance for strengthening national reproductive health supply chains through analysis, strategic interventions, capacity-building and addressing bottlenecks.

UNFPA launched this mechanism (a thematic fund) in 2007 and 10 years later it is recognized worldwide as the main channel for assisting countries to achieve “reproductive health commodity security” so that every woman, adolescent girl or young person is able to choose from and use a range of quality family planning methods, no matter where they live. I would like to emphasize the added value of this programme as part of UNFPA's comprehensive support to developing countries. UNFPA has a physical presence in every programme country and leverages the organization's convening role to add value in our efforts to integrate family planning within broader initiatives such as ending child marriage and work of the Maternal Health Thematic Fund.

Though there is much to report for the year, I would first like to note the importance of protecting the reproductive health of women and adolescent girls under the most challenging conditions. In 2017, 35 of the 46 countries in UNFPA Supplies experienced humanitarian crisis, including natural disasters, conflicts and post-conflict situations. The programme played a vital part in UNFPA's emergency response — not only through provision of Reproductive Health Kits with supplies to provide comprehensive reproductive health care for impacted populations, but also through strengthening supply chains both for humanitarian response and in the post-crisis period, and by supporting countries to build more resilient health systems.

Another significant area of work was internal. The recommended revision of the programme's governance structure was introduced in 2017, with a revised set of roles and responsibilities for the UNFPA Supplies Steering Committee and the creation of a Donor Accountability Council (DAC) to follow up on Quarterly Performance Management reporting. The programme, in partnership with the United Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also worked to develop the UNFPA Supplies Bridge Funding Mechanism. This revolving fund for eligible donor commitments to UNFPA Supplies aims to improve value for money, expedite the receipt of commodities by countries to avoid stock-outs, and allow for the negotiation of lower commodity costs through UNFPA Procurement Services over time. The UNFPA Supplies team has already utilized these funds to avert identified risks of commodity shortages or stock-outs in 27 countries to date.

Finally, in the challenging financial landscape, UNFPA Supplies is working closely with countries to support them on the pathway to financial sustainability. This includes repositioning family planning in several ways: highlighting its benefits by developing business cases, for example, that demonstrate the importance of family planning in national development plans; expanding the pool of funding resources; and maximizing efficiency for results with impact.

I take this opportunity to thank the donors who invest in reproductive health commodity security through the UNFPA Supplies programme, not only recognizing its effectiveness and efficiency as a mechanism to provide contraceptives and life-saving maternal health supplies, but also valuing UNFPA Supplies as a programme with a strategic and catalytic role to play in strengthening health systems and preparing countries to meet the needs of all women and adolescent girls through sustainable family planning. In 2017, UNFPA Supplies received support from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the Winslow Foundation, Treehouse Investments and private contributions (including online). Thank you.

Dr. Gifty Addico,
Chief, Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA

Acknowledgements

UNFPA is grateful for the technical and financial support of donors to the **UNFPA Supplies** programme in 2017:

Australia	Portugal
Belgium	Slovenia
Canada	Spain
Denmark	United Kingdom
European Union	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
France	Children's Investment Fund Foundation
Ireland	Winslow Foundation
Liechtenstein	Treehouse Investments
Luxembourg	Private contributions (including online)
Netherlands	

Since the launch of the programme in 2007, it has also received support from: Finland, Norway, Sweden, Spain-Cataluña and the RMNCH Trust Fund.

Executive summary

UNFPA Supplies is the United Nation's main programme to assist countries to achieve reproductive health commodity security so that every woman, adolescent girl and young person is able to choose from and use a range of quality family planning methods.

UNFPA Supplies offers country presence and technical assistance to contribute to the family planning strategies of governments and help them go the last mile to deliver supplies and services to women and girls who need them most. Capacity development efforts are building stronger supply chains and ensuring that trained health service providers can offer a choice of modern contraceptives. Advocacy and expertise is helping countries move towards sustainable finance and keep their commitments to the ICPD Programme of Action, FP2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among other agreements promoting family planning.

Contraceptives provided through UNFPA Supplies in 2017 had potential to reach 15 million users with a choice of quality modern contraceptives. These contraceptives had potential to avert: 7.5 million unintended pregnancies; 18,000 maternal deaths; 114,000 child deaths; and 2.3 million unsafe abortions. These contraceptives had potential to save families and health systems \$450 million in direct health-care costs (costs of care during pregnancy and childbirth). (Calculated using MSI Impact 2.4.)

A new governance structure for the programme was rolled out in 2017 with a revised set of roles and responsibilities of the steering committee and the creation of the Donor Accountability Council

(DAC) to follow on Quarterly Performance Management. The QPM process began and proved useful for monitoring programme operations. The workplan review and approval process improved in timeliness and quality, and the programme continued its differentiated approach to supporting countries. The new governance model:

- prioritizes support to countries with greatest need where the programme's contribution is unique;
- catalyses country-led, rights-based and sustainable pathways to reproductive health supply security; and
- scales up proven interventions.

The new operating model necessitated revision of the programme's Performance Monitoring Framework, and reporting began in 2017 for several new and modified indicators.

Finance and resources

The programme achieved an implementation rate of 88 per cent, and workplan review and approval accelerated significantly. The total available budget in 2017 was \$155 million, excluding the set-aside reserve and donor contributions received in the fourth quarter. Total expenses were \$119 million.

Donor contributions to the programme increased from \$113 million in 2016 to \$149 million in 2017 – an increase of \$37 million. Funds received in the last quarter are scheduled to be disbursed in 2018. The number of donors contributing to the programme increased: 18 donors provided financial support to UNFPA Supplies in 2017 compared with 11 donors in 2016 and 5 in 2015. UNFPA Supplies received

support from a diverse range of donors in 2017: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, the Winslow Foundation, Treehouse Investments and private contributions (including online).

How we measure impact and results

The overarching goal of **UNFPA Supplies**, to increase contraceptive use especially by poor and marginalized women and girls, has been met in 2017. Progress towards this goal is measured on the global level against five indicators:

- average family planning unmet need;
- average modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR);
- average demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods;
- contraceptive method mix; and
- number of additional modern contraceptive users.

The programme does not operate in isolation and does not claim exclusive credit for the achievements presented.

UNFPA Supplies continued to provide critical support for increasing availability of reproductive health commodities in support of sexual and reproductive health services including family planning, especially for marginalized women and girls. Progress towards this outcome is measured by indicators in five key output areas:

- an enabled environment and strengthened partnership for reproductive health and family planning;
- improved efficiency for procurement and supply of reproductive health commodities;

- improved access to quality reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP) services for poor and marginalized women and girls;
- strengthened capacity and systems for supply chain management and data generation; and
- as a management output, improved programme coordination and management.

Highlights

1. Additional users of modern contraception were added this year, with an additional 17.9 million women and girls (aged 15–49) using modern contraception as of July 2017 across all 46 countries in **UNFPA Supplies**, bringing the total users in these countries to 63.5 million since 2012. Mozambique stands out as it has reached a high number of more than 1 million additional users since 2012 despite having a relatively small population.
2. **UNFPA** was able to reduce prices for key contraceptives on 4 out of 7 product categories in 2017 (compared with prior year prices), reducing prices for approximately 89 per cent of the contraceptives it procured in 2017.
3. **UNFPA Supplies** purchased contraceptives in 2017 worth \$57.6 million and provided nearly 22.4 million couple years of protection (CYPs). The average cost per CYP reduced to \$2.68 in 2017 compared with \$2.78 in 2016.
4. Modern contraceptive prevalence increased alongside a reduction in unmet need. Average mCPR for all women of reproductive age was up from 23.2 per cent in 2016 to 23.9 per cent in 2017 in **UNFPA Supplies’** countries. We see the gap closing between urban and rural mCPR.

Average demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods in the 46 UNFPA Supplies countries rose from 46.8 per cent in 2016 to 47.6 per cent in 2017.

5. Contraceptive method mix continued to improve in 2017, meaning more contraceptive choice and more sustained use of the chosen method. The number of countries where one method dominated declined from 18 to 14 over the past year. In 2017, injectable methods were the most dominant method in nine countries followed by the pill in five countries.
6. More service delivery points (SDPs) are offering three modern contraceptive methods, regardless of location. Facility survey data were available in 25 countries this year. Some 76 per cent (19 of 25) countries had 85 per cent of primary-level service delivery points that have at least three modern contraceptive methods available on the day of the survey assessment.
7. Government institutions demonstrate capacity and leadership on contraceptive demand forecasting and procurement process in 33 of the 46 programme countries. The government leads the procurement process in 27 countries and is in charge of forecasting in 28 countries; and in 23 countries that government leads both the procurement and forecasting processes.
8. Shortages of reproductive health supplies (stock-outs) continue but improvement could be seen in 2017. Seven countries made ad hoc requests to UNFPA Supplies for commodities for various reasons other than in humanitarian context – an improvement from 15 countries in 2016. Through UNFPA Supplies coordination with other international procurers, mainly USAID, the programme was able to identify where its additional assistance was needed.
9. Service delivery points provide life-saving maternal health and family planning supplies and services. At least three life-saving maternal health medicines were available at 73.3 per cent of urban SDPs on average in 2017, in the 25 countries surveyed, and 60 per cent of rural SDPs. Six of 18 countries in the survey have at least 85 per cent of primary SDPs have trained staff in place for provision of modern contraceptives.
10. More than two thirds (68 per cent) of SDPs have trained staff in logistics management information systems for the 18 countries for which data were available in 2017. The percentage is higher for tertiary level (72.4 per cent) than for secondary and primary levels; it is also higher for SDPs located in urban levels than for SDPs in rural locations.
11. Humanitarian situations affected more than 75 per cent of countries in the UNFPA Supplies programme (35 of 46), including natural disasters, conflicts and post-conflict situations. In 2017, through UNFPA Supplies support, Reproductive Health Kits were dispatched to 25 countries, sufficient to reach 2.7 million people including 1.4 million women and adolescent girls.
12. Amounts allocated by programme countries for procurement of commodities in national budgets increased slightly in 2017. The total amount allocated for the procurement of contraceptives increased from \$32.2 million in 2016 to \$34.9 million in 2017.

13. Partnerships are growing. In 2017, UNFPA engaged with numerous global partners, regional and subregional partners, universities, research institutes and private sector companies to strengthen family planning policies and supply chains and to expand the method mix and to reach marginalized populations.
14. Advocacy in programme countries helped ensure marginalized populations were reached. The programme continued efforts towards creating a positive policy and effective programming environment including developing, updating and enacting policies and strategies, protocols and tools around family planning.
15. Partnerships helped prevent stock-outs. Efforts by the UNFPA and USAID led Coordinated Supply Planning Group improved visibility along supply chains through data-collection, and identified countries with under- and overstocks, facilitating corrective action. In another effort to strengthen supply chains and end stock-outs, the UNFPA Supplies Bridge Funding Mechanism was designed in 2017 with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK's DFID to address the long-standing challenge of aligning donor funding cycles with the timelines for procurement of RH commodities.
16. Innovation and improvement of supply chain management and procurement were priorities in 2017. The programme launched several initiatives to improve procurement and supply chain efficiencies. UNFPA started developing a supply chain management strategy and with partners embarked on the development of a supportive tool to create the Global Visibility Analytics Network (VAN), a collaborative space where existing supply chain teams can simultaneously see the same data and execute supply decisions.
17. The country support model introduced in 2016 saw results in 2017. By 15 January 2017, 42 countries had finalized their annual workplans and receive their funds and initiated activities. These countries received their first tranche of funding within two weeks after their plans were approved – a significant improvement.
18. The differentiated approach to country support was applied: reducing support for commodities procurement for those countries better able to fund commodities from their own budgets, focusing instead on technical assistance develop sustainable family planning programmes.
19. For Category C countries (those approaching sustainability) UNFPA Supplies procurement was reduced from 94 per cent in 2016 to 73 per cent in 2017; at the same time, use of third party procurement (TPP) by countries to purchase commodities from UNFPA's Procurement Services increased from 6 per cent in 2016 to 27 per cent in 2017. Analysis and lessons learned from the country categorization approaches are informing the programme's support to countries in 2018.
20. Media and communications activities supported fundraising and advocacy. A significant number of media and communications activities were carried out in 2017 to support visibility and resource mobilization efforts for family planning and UNFPA Supplies. A social media field mission to Sierra Leone allowed UNFPA to raise global awareness about the current unmet need for family planning around the world and the Fund's ongoing work to close this gap.



Girls in school uniforms in Buchanan, Liberia. These girls are informed about family planning as part of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education in school. This knowledge, coupled with access to services, is helping to ensure they can stay in school and complete their educations. © UNFPA Liberia 2018/Benedicte Kurzen/NOOR

The full Annual Report 2017, and further details about the UNFPA Supplies programme are available from: www.unfpa.org/unfpa-supplies

UNFPA Commodity Security Branch

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