

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

Every year, UNFPA Zambia recommit its efforts to our core mission of “delivering a world [and a Zambia] where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.”

2017 was however exceptional in some ways, as it heralded the launch of key national strategic documents that fully domesticated the Sustainable Development Goals. Critical development indicators on sexual reproductive health and rights were outlined in Zambia’s 7th National Development Plan, a key document that guides Zambia’s overarching vision for inclusive social and economic development; and various sector-based strategic frameworks.

With thousands of women unable to fulfill their right to decide if, when or how often to have children; hundreds of mothers dying from preventable maternal deaths every year;

and thousands of new HIV infections recorded, especially among adolescent girls and women; the year 2017 remained significant as we had to intensify efforts and partnerships towards improving the health and wellbeing of Zambia’s women and young people.

UNFPA Zambia and Partners worked relentlessly on promoting and facilitating the delivery of evidence-based and life-saving interventions for women and youth, including marginalized populations and underserved locations; while also advocating for rights-based policies that increase access to sexual reproductive health information and services.

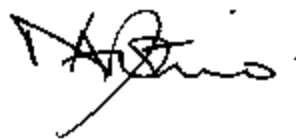
The 2017 Annual Report amplifies the voices of some women and youth in their quest for inclusive and sustainable development.

“Leaving no one behind is not a farfetched aspiration, it is an achievable reality when collective efforts and resources are leveraged, targeted and utilized in line with national needs.”

The story of Felistus, a rural-based mother who enjoys her right to pregnancy by choice and not by chance, was possible through key actions that enable the delivery of vital Family Planning information and services to Zambia's rural women. Mapalo, a 17-year-old young mother and former child bride found comfort and support at a girl's safe space for marginalized adolescents at the risk of child marriage. Anna, Mwiza and Artiness, 3 marginalized adolescent girls whose bold aspirations to make a difference in their lives, inspired and secured affirmative actions to support their long term girl-child education.

These and many more people-centered stories of change propelled the Country Office to go the extra mile in strengthening programme effectiveness and operational efficiency.

Looking forward into 2018, the Country Office management and staff are further poised to achieve greater measurable results which demonstrate the universality principles envisioned by the Sustainable Development Goals and the need to reach the furthest from behind first. Leaving no one behind is not a farfetched aspiration, it is an achievable reality when collective efforts and resources are leveraged, targeted and utilized in line with national needs.



Dr Mary Otieno
UNFPA Representative



In the Picture: UNFPA Zambia Representative (MR); High Commission of Canada Head of Office (M) and Minister of Gender (ML) join learners at Mtendere Secondary School in Lusaka in unveiling a mural painting that highlighted young people's perspectives around gender-based violence.

UNFPA Zambia: What We Do...



UNFPA works to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

In Zambia, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is currently implementing its 8th Country Programme with the Government of Zambia (2016-2021), which is focused on 3 result areas:

- ☀ Sexual and reproductive health;
- ☀ Adolescents and youth;
- ☀ Population dynamics.

Focused on inclusive social development and ensuring that “no one is left behind”, the Programme is aligned with Zambia's Vision 2030; Zambia's 7th National Development Plan (2017-2021); and the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) 2016 – 2021.

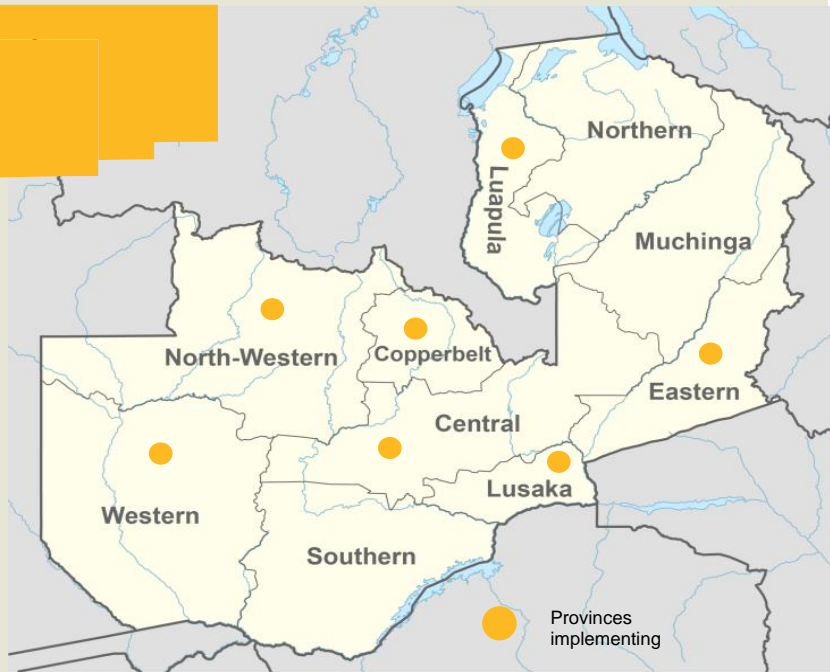


Our Modes of Engagement

UNFPA's collaborations with the Government of Zambia prioritizes Advocacy and Policy Dialogue; Capacity Development; Knowledge Management; Targeted Service Delivery of Essential Sexual Reproductive Health Services; and Partnerships and Coordination to ensure that:

- (1) Every pregnancy is wanted by providing quality and timely information and services on choice of modern contraceptives to women and men;
- (2) Every childbirth is safe through availability of skilled midwives during pregnancy and childbirth; and provision of essential medicines and equipment to avert maternal deaths within a functional health system;
- (3) Every young person's potential is fulfilled by equipping them with knowledge and skills; linking them to services, as well as building their capacity to participate in national development processes.

Where we Work



UNFPA's collaborations with the Government of Zambia are at two levels:

1. **National level** – UNFPA advocates for policies and programmes that advance sexual reproductive health and rights; supports the generation and analysis of policy and programme relevant data for use in decision-making; and facilitates institutional capacity development. UNFPA also supports procurement of reproductive health commodities, alongside improving supply chain management systems.
2. **Sub-national level** – UNFPA supports the strengthening of systems for delivery of sexual reproductive health services, as well as supports knowledge management practices.

UNFPA's sub-national collaborations in 7 Provinces is focused on the following targeted interventions:

- **Luapula:** UNFPA sub-office supporting integrated sexual reproductive health services.
- **North Western:** UNFPA sub-office supporting integrated sexual reproductive health services.
- **Western:** (1) UNFPA sub-office supporting provision of integrated sexual reproductive health services (2) GRZ/DfID/UN Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening.
- **Lusaka:** GRZ/EU/UN Millennium Development Goals Initiative (MDGi).
- **Central:** GRZ/DfID/UN Joint Programme on Health Systems Strengthening.
- **Eastern:** Joint UNFPA-UNICEF Programme to End Child Marriage.
- **Copperbelt:** GRZ/EU/UN Millennium Development Goals Initiative (MDGi).

**Delivering a
Zambia, Where
Every Pregnancy
is Wanted...**



CONTEXT

In 2017, UNFPA in Zambia continued to support women to enjoy the right to decide freely the number and spacing of their children, by sustaining collaborations with the Government of the Republic of Zambia in further operationalizing the National Family Planning Scale-Up Plan (2013-2020). The Family Planning Scale-Up Plan aims 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.

As one of the 46 countries supported by the global “UNFPA Supplies Programme”, key strategic approaches by UNFPA and its partners facilitated the following results recorded in Zambia:

RESULTS IN 2017



10,000 unintended pregnancies were averted due to use of modern methods of contraception.



6,000 unsafe abortions were averted due to use of modern methods of contraception.



The number of additional users of modern methods of contraception increased by **77,000** - from 304,000 in 2016 to 381,000 in 2017.



218 additional health care providers and managers acquired technical skills and capacities in provision of Long Acting Reversible Contraception to improve method mix in the country.



A lower middle-income country expected to transition to sustainable financing for its contraceptive needs, Zambia secured commitment for predictable multi-year investments in reproductive health commodities. This commitment for incremental funding and corresponding development partner support resulted in closing financing gaps for 2017 national commodity needs in the immediate term.

Bringing Vital Family Planning Services to Zambia's Rural Women

Felistus* and Peter* are peasant farmers and parents to five children in rural Rufunsa district of Lusaka Province. Though Felistus has begun accessing injectable contraceptives, doing so is far from easy. Every three months it takes her four hours to walk across two mountains to get to the nearest family planning service delivery point and back – a distance of about 40 kilometers. Peter is uncomfortable about his wife leaving the house and their children unattended, as the journey to the clinic takes up most of her day. This has occasionally led to misunderstandings between husband and wife, despite the fact that Peter understands the benefits of family planning and supports his wife in doing so.

In rural areas, a number of challenges hinder women from using family planning services. These include long distances to health facilities, socio-cultural barriers such as men prohibiting their wives from using contraceptives, and a desire to have many children.

Although unmet need for contraceptives is declining at national level, the rates are relatively high in rural areas, at 24% compared to 17% in urban areas.

Strengthening health services in rural areas

It is the testimonies of women such as Felistus that have facilitated key actions aimed at improving access to family planning commodities in remote rural areas, up to the last mile.



Felistus discussing injectable contraceptive's with a nurse at a local clinic in Rufunsa district of Lusaka Province. The Government has also endorsed a policy allowing Community Based Distributors to offer injectable contraceptives, which is systematically being rolled out to all districts.

This includes training of Community-Based Distributors (CBDs) in an effort to increase access to family planning services among underserved populations.

To improve access to family planning in hard-to-reach communities, the Ministry of Health endorsed a policy to allow CBDs to provide selected injectable contraceptives alongside other family planning methods; as well as increased domestic funding and partnerships, among others.

UNFPA supports improved access to family planning services in rural areas

UNFPA in Zambia has provided support to this process through the development of community-based distribution plans; development of training manuals and technical guidelines for CBD's and health-care providers; as well as targeted capacity building of CBD's and health-care providers.

* Names changed to protect the subjects' privacy

Delivering a Zambia, Where Every Childbirth is Safe...



CONTEXT

In Zambia, UNFPA supports Governments' goal to reduce maternal mortality to 100 per 100,000 live births by 2021, as outlined in the National Health Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021). Specific strategic interventions supported by UNFPA include Midwifery training and mentorship; Fistula prevention and treatment; Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR); as well as Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC).

RESULTS IN 2017



600 maternal deaths were averted.



310 women with Obstetric Fistula were repaired, thus restoring their dignity.



88 midwifery graduates were deployed, while 96 nurses were enrolled for midwifery training.



28 additional health facilities with improved capacities to provide emergency obstetric care services in supported provinces.



Saving Mothers' Lives with Skilled Attendance at Birth

In its efforts to contribute to the availability of skilled health personnel at birth, UNFPA continued to support the Ministry of Health and its organs to implement the National Midwifery Programme.

Key milestones achieved during the year included improved capacities of midwives' to provide Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC), through specific training and mentorship programmes, as well as the deployment of 88 midwifery graduates and enrolment of an additional 96 nurses for long-term midwifery training.

4 WAYS YOU CAN HELP END FISTULA



Fistula - an abnormal opening in the birth canal caused by prolonged, obstructed labor due to the lack of timely and adequate medical care - currently affects thousands of women and girls in Zambia. Each year, over 2,000 fistula patients in Zambia await surgery.

UNFPA addresses fistula in 4 ways:

1

Supporting efforts aimed at ensuring skilled attendance for all births.

2

Facilitating the provision of timely and high quality emergency obstetric care for all women who develop complications during delivery.

3

Providing family planning commodities for spacing and delaying pregnancy.

4

Addressing underlying factors that contribute to women's' and girls' marginalization – including lack of access to quality health services and education, gender and socioeconomic inequality, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy

In 2017, UNFPA facilitated the successful repair of 310 fistula patients, thus restoring their dignity. This brings the total number of fistula repair surgeries to 2,304 since 2005.

Capacity Building of Health Workers Improves Family Planning Uptake in Rural Luapula Province



Meet Mubanga Mushikita, a 25-year-old enrolled nurse at Lwela Rural Health Centre, a UNFPA supported facility in Luapula Province. Following a training in the provision of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) in December 2017, Mubanga acquired practical skills that have enabled him facilitate effective insertions and removals of Jadelle and Implanon.

“The training has been beneficial to me and the community. Within 1 month, I have successfully facilitated 10 Jadelle insertions, 15 Implanon insertions and 1 Copper insertion, which I was not able to do before I was trained. More women, including adolescent girls, have been coming to seek advice on how they can delay pregnancy as well as prevent HIV and STI’s. Using the Medic Eligibility Criteria (MEC) form, I have provided advice according to their needs and situation” Mubanga highlights.

Echoing Mubanga’s observations, Provincial Health Officer in Luapula Province, Tedson Saineti, also noted that *“nearly all the staff in the 13 UNFPA supported facilities in Luapula Province have been trained in LARC, and are providing improved quality of services to clients. This has enabled clients to relax over a longer period of time, without worrying about frequent and long distances to the facility”*

With support from UNFPA, 77,000 additional users of a method-mix of modern contraceptives were reached in 2017.

This was enabled by an increased coverage of target population groups, as well as capacity building of 272 additional health care providers at service delivery points in the provision of



Top Left: Mubanga, an enrolled nurse at Lwela Rural Health Centre in Luapula Province, who is using the knowledge he acquired in LARC to provide improved Family Planning Services to rural-based men and women.

Bottom Right: A rural-based couple receiving condoms from one of hundreds of health care providers trained in Family Planning, including LARC.

Delivering a Zambia, Where Every Young Person's Potential is Fulfilled...



CONTEXT

To ensure young peoples' potential is fulfilled, as they transition from childhood to adulthood, UNFPA Zambia works with young people and partners with the Government and other stakeholders to deliver comprehensive policies and programmes that address key issues and challenges faced by adolescents and young people in Zambia.

UNFPA contributes to the advancement of young people's health and development through five strategic prongs:

1

Advocacy for comprehensive policies, programmes and investments that prioritize young peoples' health and development.

2

Promoting comprehensive sexuality education for in and out of school youth.

3

Building national capacity for delivery of adolescent friendly sexual reproductive health services, including HIV prevention.

4

Taking bold initiatives to reach marginalized and disadvantaged adolescents, particularly girls

5

Promoting youth leadership and participation in development processes

RESULTS IN 2017



17,693

Adolescents and young people were reached through 557 safe spaces, which has contributed to increased knowledge in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and SRH&R among adolescents.



7 out of 10

Provinces have capacity to deliver quality youth-friendly health services that are aligned with international standards.



The “Untold Stories” of Child Brides

In many developing countries, girls’ safe spaces have emerged as a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of adolescent girls.

In Zambia, over 550 safe spaces have been established through the “UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme on Ending Child Marriage”, supported by UKAid, European Union, Canada and the Netherlands. Implemented by YWCA, the safe spaces are aimed at equipping girls affected and at risk of child marriage with life skills that can enable them resist child marriage.

Mapalo*, a 17-year-old young mother and former child bride is among the thousands of adolescent girls who have benefitted from the safe spaces. During her pregnancy and while being married to the father of her baby, Mapalo suffered immense physical and emotional abuse.

“At night, my husband would drag me outside the house and lock the door. I would spend the whole night outside, in the cold and sometimes in the rain. I could not even have a proper meal in that house.”

* Name changed to protect the subjects’ privacy



It was around this time that a safe space mentor passed through our home while conducting door to door visits to identify and engage girls affected by child marriage. With her help, I finally moved out of my abusive marriage, together with my baby”. Mapalo said.

Mapalo continues to participate in weekly safe space sessions, and aspires to go back to school. *“When I finish school, I want to become a soldier so that I can help end violence and create peace in the world”.* She says with a smile on her face.

In 2017, UNFPA intensified key actions towards closing inequality gaps for women and adolescent girls, including through the “What If...” Campaign aimed at highlighting inequalities faced by marginalized women and adolescent girls, as well as showcasing their potentials when socio-economic opportunities are secured. The campaign resulted in awards of education scholarships by Ecobank and the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia to 5 adolescent girls identified to be facing socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities, including Mapalo.

“When we grow up and achieve our aspirations of becoming a Neurosurgeon, Engineer and Lawyer, we want to make a difference in the lives of poor and vulnerable people,” says Anna, Mwiza and Artiness, the 3 secondary school girls who have been awarded education scholarships by Ecobank.

tuneme

Straight Talk on Love and Relationships

The approach

Funded by UNFPA and Ford Foundation, TUNEME is a mobi-site designed with social features and interactive content, aimed at equipping adolescents and youth with the information and motivation they need to make better choices around their health and development.

The results

In 2017, over 528,521 adolescents and young people accessed sexual reproductive health information through the platform.

“This is a very exciting initiative. This page addresses all the questions and arguments we had with my classmates about love and relationships” says one of the registered users.

In 2017, UNFPA in collaboration with the Population Council commenced the undertaking of a study to assess the effectiveness of TUNEME towards improved access to youth-friendly services. Results of the study are expected to inform key actions that will ensure access to information translates into increased utilization of health services by young people.

Am I ready for sex?

Are you struggling with **body issues**?
Do you need **dating tips**?

For straight talk on **love, sex and relationships**, join our safe community on your phone and get answers to **all your private questions**.

Go to tuneme.org in your browser.

Join our community on [facebook.com/tuneme.org](https://www.facebook.com/tuneme.org)

Scan the QR Code above to access the site.

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Towards an HIV Free Generation in Zambia.

In Zambia, young people especially adolescent girls, continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. According to the Zambia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (2015-2016), prevalence among 20-24 year olds is 4 times as high among females (8.6%) than males (2.1%).

Low condom use is among the key drivers of HIV among young people in Zambia, where only 40% of girls and 49% of boys aged 15-24 used a condom at last high-risk sex.

To meet Zambia's 2016 commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030, the Government of Zambia held a National HIV Prevention Consultation, to discuss progress and

commitments towards Zambia's 2020 targets for HIV Prevention.

In a key note speech delivered at the consultation, Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya underscored Governments' commitment to *"intensify measures aimed at reducing the number of new annual infections from 46,000 to 15,000 among adults aged 15-59 and from 10,000 to 670 among 0-15 year olds"*.

UNFPA Zambia's collaboration with the Government of Zambia includes support to access to condoms for sexually active persons - especially young people, as well as strengthening evidence-based forecasting, quantification and procurement of close to 50% of the total public sector commodity needs annually.



Empowering the Next Generation

Growing up, Sarah aspired to make a positive contribution to her community. Today, as a member of a “Youth Hub” in Lusaka, she is realizing this ambition.

“The hub inspires and encourages me to do more for my community” says Sarah, who regularly visits the hub.

Established in 2016 by Action Aid with support from UNFPA, the Youth Hub has become a very popular hang-out for many young people in Lusaka, providing youth capacity development and a platform for interaction around sexual reproductive health issues.

“It is a very supportive space with programs that teach and challenge you to make the most of your youthfulness, as well as to positively impact your community and country at large!” says Gerry Sikazwe who is among over 2,000 young people who have visited the hub between 2016 and 2017.

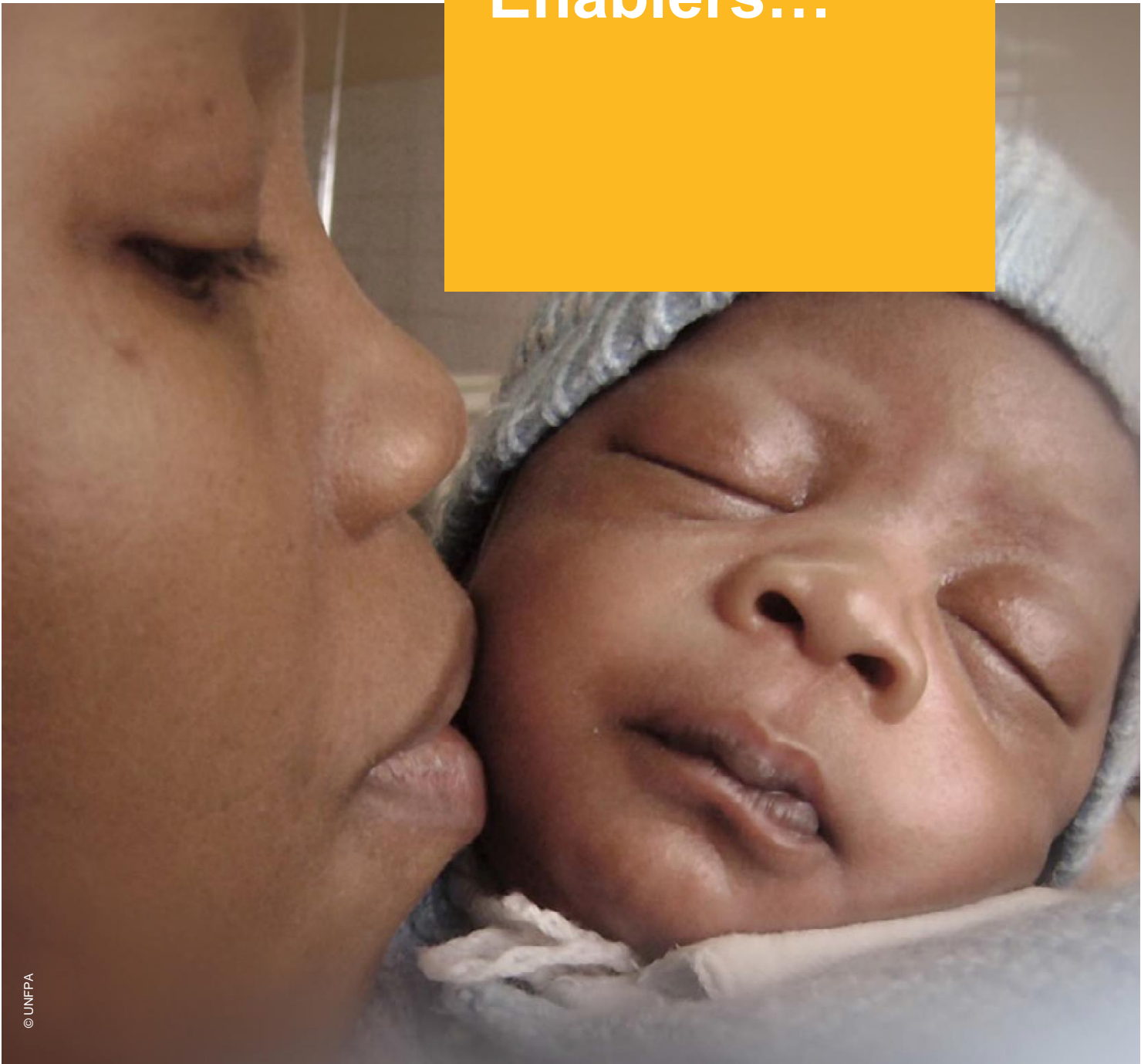
Since 2016, the successful establishment of an active hub for young people has mobilized more than 392,000 young people through online and offline outreach activities.

The increase in youth participation in the hub has empowered youth activism for social change. Youth engaged through the hub are now able to debate sexual reproductive health and governance issues through youth dialogue, men chats and Feminist Friday’s among others.

The youth hub has also been recognized and used by the UN Youth Partnership Platform in Zambia and Government institutions, including the Ministry of Youth, as a safe place for youth empowerment and engagement in Lusaka.

As part of its 8th Country Programme with the Government of Zambia, UNFPA continues to co-create evidence-based and youth-led initiatives aimed at supporting ongoing national efforts to fulfill the future potentials of young people, towards the achievement of Zambia’s vision 2030 and SDGs.

Programme Enablers...



Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships

In 2017, UNFPA contributed to the incorporation of sexual reproductive health dimensions in key national policies, frameworks and plans, towards attainment of universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights in Zambia. These included Zambia's 7th National Development Plan (2017-2021) as well as the corresponding National Health Strategic Plan and National Adolescent Health Strategic Plan, among others.

The Country Office also sustained high-level policy engagements with the Office of the First Lady, traditional leaders, parliamentarian's and the private sector towards addressing key sexual reproductive health and rights issues affecting women and young people.



7 Parliamentary Committee Reports and 4 Ministerial Statements prioritized key SRH&R issues within various oversight, legislation and budgetary mandates.



Commitments by the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia and Ecobank to sponsor the secondary and university education of 5 marginalized adolescent girls.



Secured £15.5million for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH&N) programmes through a health systems strengthening approach from UKAid.



In the Photo: First Lady of the Republic of Zambia (M) with UNFPA Representative (R2), DFID Team Leader - Human Development (R1), UNICEF Representative (L2) and UNESCO Team Leader (L1) at a dialogue meeting with spouses of traditional leaders in November 2017.

Humanitarian Action



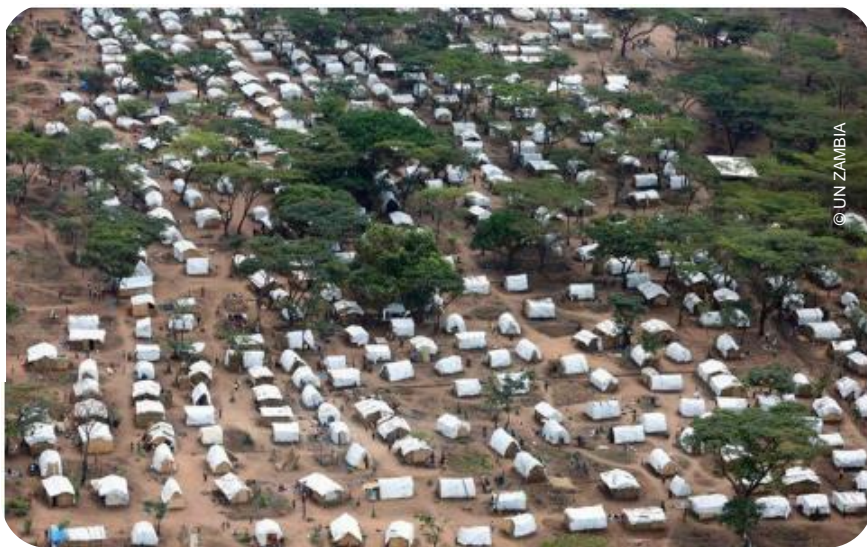
460 and 108 women were reached with antenatal and post-natal care services respectively; while 306 clients were reached with family planning services at Kenani refugee transit centre between September and December 2017.



Over 3,000 women of childbearing age were reached with dignity kits and mama packs at Kenani refugee transit centre.

During crisis situations, women and girls of reproductive age remain among the most severely affected population groups – with a heightened need for special hygiene and reproductive health services.

“After I delivered my triplets at a clinic in Mpweto district, the doctors advised me to flee into a country which is peaceful to avoid being killed by rebels. I was so frightened, especially after seeing many women and children attached by rebels. Without carrying anything for myself or my babies, I fled into Zambia. My babies were always cold and I feared they would get sick as I had no blankets for them to use. I am therefore grateful to receive this “mama pack.” says 35 year old Kazi.



An aerial view of Kenani transit centre, Luapula Province

© UN ZAMBIA

Kazi is among thousands of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) registered at Kenani refugee transit centre in Luapula Province.

To meet the reproductive health, hygiene and safety needs of displaced women and girls at the transit center, UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and as part of the UN Zambia joint response to the DRC emergency situation, facilitated the establishment of a temporary clinic that serves the refugees within the transit centre with basic health services.

In 2017, the Country Office also contributed to improved national emergency preparedness actions, guided by disaggregated data.

Harnessing Data for Development

In 2017, UNFPA Zambia continued to provide both technical and financial support to the Government of Zambia, particularly the Central Statistics Office and the Ministry of Development Planning, to scale up national capacity to generate, analyze and utilize data and evidence to inform national policy, planning, programmes and targeted investments.

Specific results for the year included the inclusion of evidence-informed and game-changing Demographic Dividend policy options into the 7th National Development Plan (2017 – 2021); development of a Country Profile and Sub National Analysis of macro-economic and social parameters at various administrative levels; inclusion of key performance indicators (including sexual reproductive health and rights) across the five pillars of the 7th National Development Plan; as well as development of a prototype for provincial statistical profiles at constituency level.



Promoting Human Rights Based and Gender Sensitive Approaches

In line with the 1994 Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), UNFPA in Zambia recognizes the manifestations of unfulfilled reproductive rights, especially for women and girls, which are mainly fueled by gender discrimination and violence between men and women.

In 2017, the Country Office continued to use disaggregated data and evidence to support gender sensitive reproductive health interventions, taking into account how gender roles obstruct or advance progress towards maternal health.

Specific milestones for the year included the launch of a new regional SIDA funded SRH/HIV/SGBV UN Joint Programme, aimed at

empowering all people to exercise their reproductive rights and access quality, gender sensitive and integrated sexual reproductive health, HIV and gender based violence (SRHR/HIV/SGBV) services by 2021.

Through bilateral engagements with the State, Human Rights Commission, as well as the UN system, UNFPA also contributed to various reports submitted to the 28th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Through these actions, UNFPA positioned the progressive realization of sexual reproductive health within Zambia's Human Rights Framework, including through the co-hosting of a side event that was used as a platform to galvanize support for SRH&R related recommendations made at the 28th Session of the UPR.

UNFPA

Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's
potential is fulfilled



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