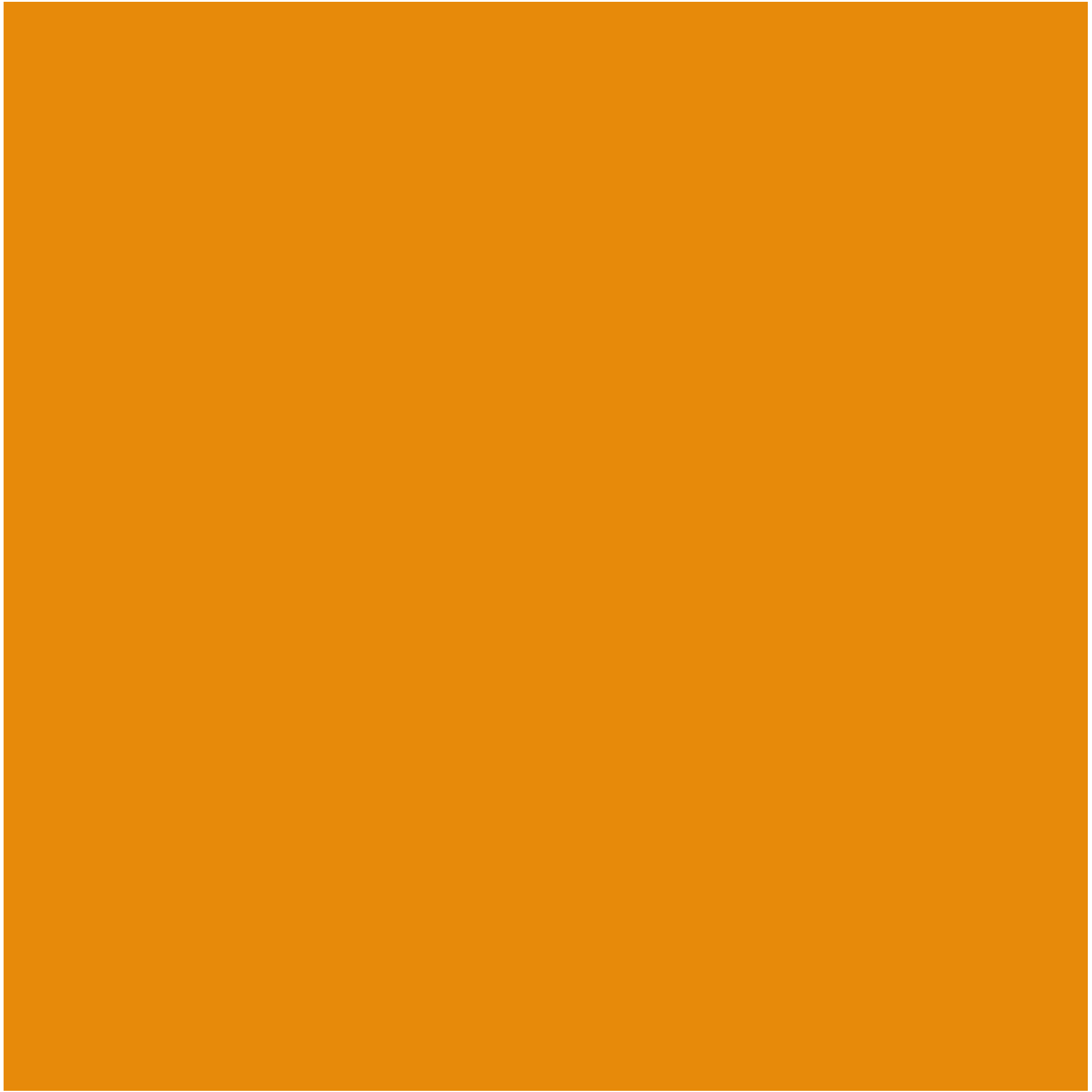


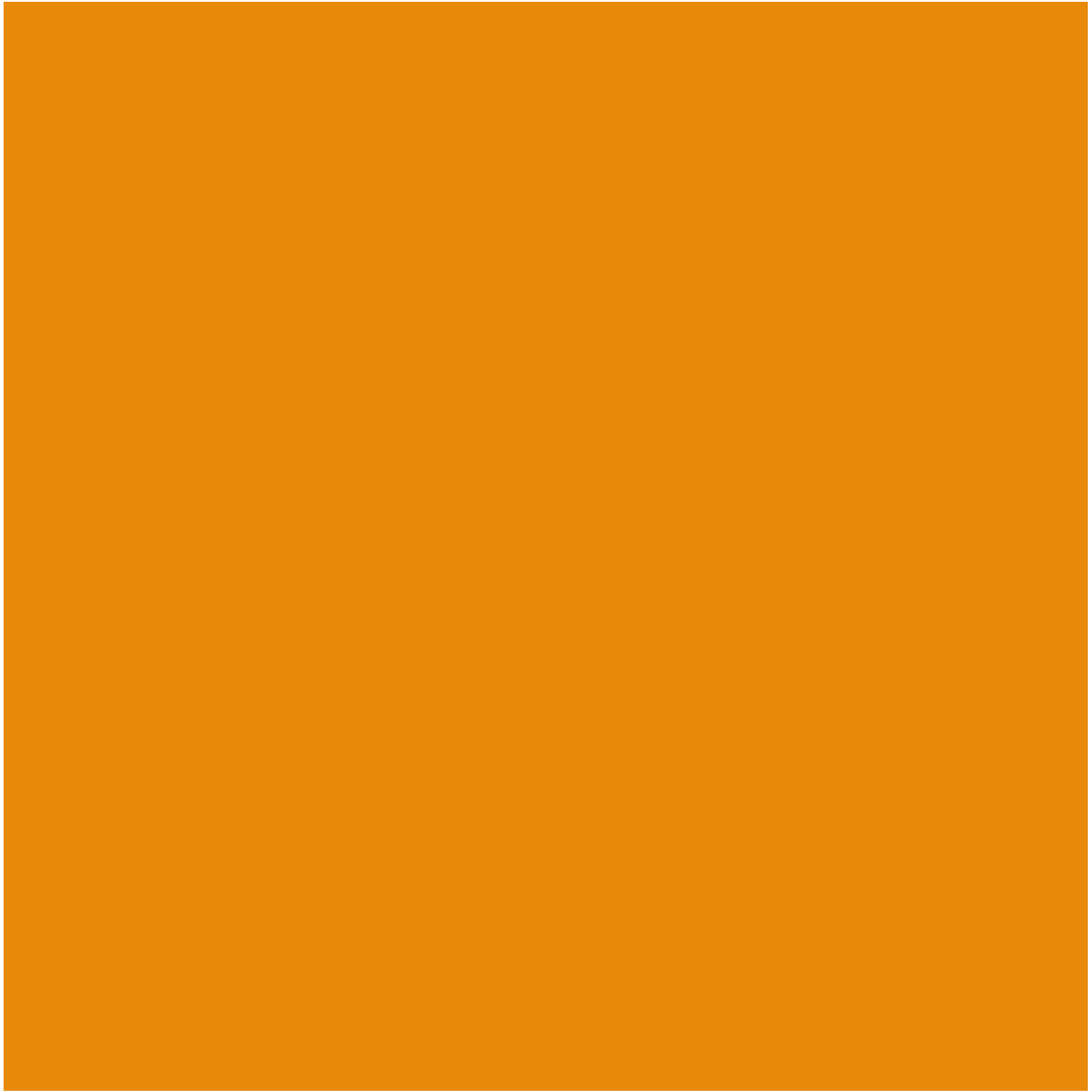
# TOWARDS A DECADE OF ACTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS



**2019 REPORT**  
**GHANA COUNTRY OFFICE**







## foreword

# Towards a decade of action and achievement

UNFPA Ghana declared 2019 a year of preparation for a Decade of Action and Achievement (2020–2030). It was a significant year for all of us at UNFPA as we celebrated 50 years as an organization and 25 years of the ICPD Programme of Action, the blueprint that guides our work.

The Ghana Country Office worked daily with policymakers, partners, friends, young people and other stakeholders, and sought out innovative methods and ideas to gather momentum for a decade of action and achievement. We looked at problems differently and came up with solutions that will provide an endless stream of value to our funding. We realized that business as usual cannot continue, and that innovation will be the most important factor in our success.

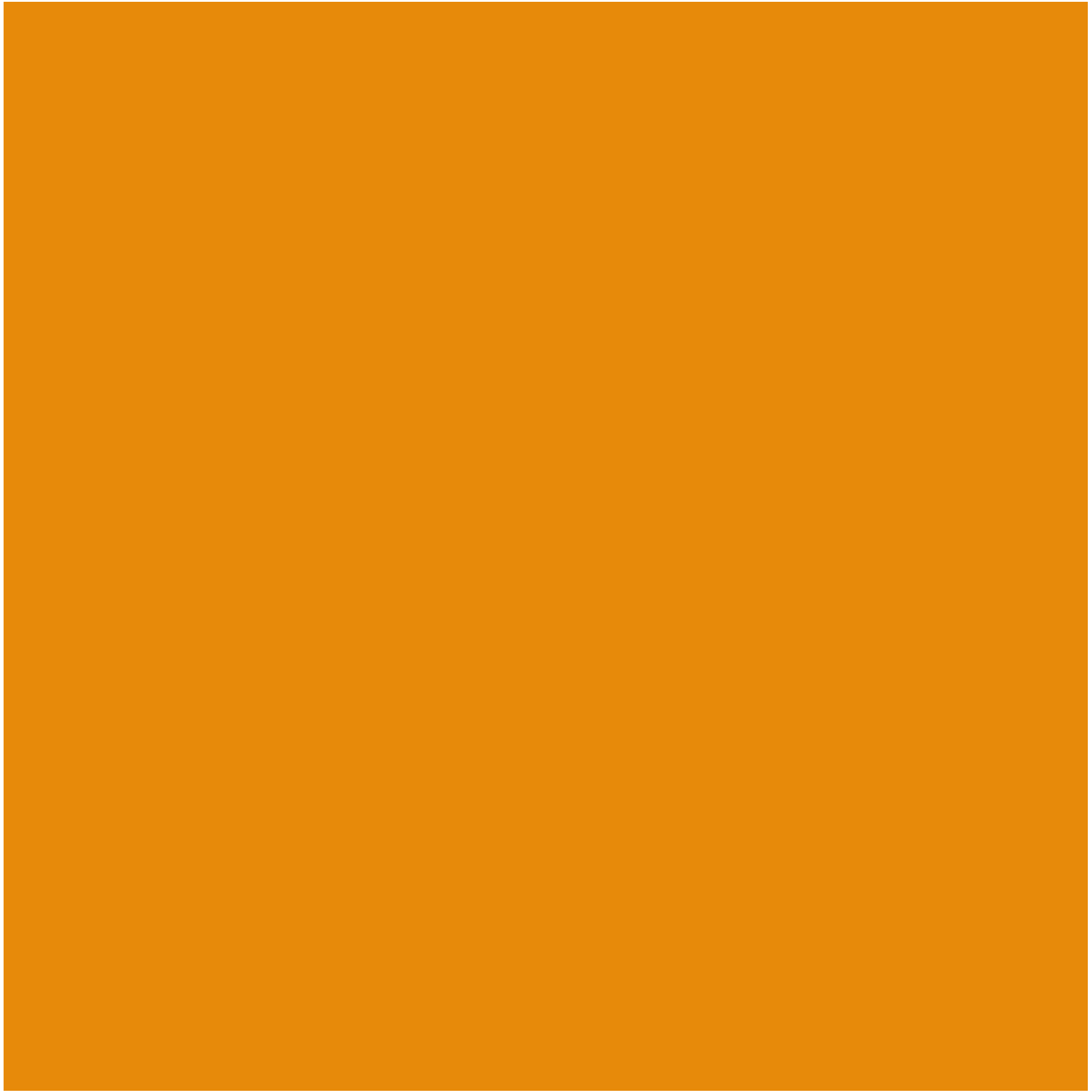
To walk the talk on youth engagement and showcase investments in young people that are yielding tangible results, we launched the Youth Leaders Fellowship Programme, or YoLe Fellowship. This initiative has paid off: the 16 young people we recruited in the 2018/19 programme year are now equipped with invaluable skills and knowledge, and they have benefited from professional mentoring and exposure



*UNFPA Ghana Country Representative Mr. Niyi Ojuolape*

to attitudes and attributes they will need to work successfully with colleagues and the wider community. Within 12 months, they have grown into highly capable young people who will function confidently and competently in any work environment. Six of them have gained admission to postgraduate studies in various fields both nationally and internationally, and another eight have secured employment opportunities with the government, international agencies, and the private sector.

Given these positive outcomes, it is imperative that we prioritize investment in young people in 2020. If we are to achieve zero maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning and zero sexual and gender-based violence/harmful practices by 2030 — the target year for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — we will need to scale up efforts to strengthen empowerment strategies for women and girls and ensure that men and boys are fully engaged.



# Acronyms/Abbreviations

<b>AAG</b>	Autism Ambassadors of Ghana
<b>AfriYAN</b>	African Youth and Adolescents' Network on Population and Development
<b>AGP</b>	Adolescent Girls' Programme
<b>AYFHS</b>	Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services
<b>ASRH</b>	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>ARHR</b>	Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights
<b>CAPI</b>	Computer Assisted Personnel Interview
<b>CM</b>	Child Marriage
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CoPASH</b>	Coalition of People against SGBV and Harmful Practices
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>DoG</b>	Department of Gender
<b>DODMAS</b>	DOVVSU Online Data Management System
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence
<b>DOVVSU</b>	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
<b>EmONC</b>	Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
<b>FP</b>	Family Planning
<b>GAWW</b>	Ghanaian Association for Women's Welfare
<b>GDHS</b>	Ghana Demographic and Health Survey
<b>GHS</b>	Ghana Health Service
<b>GSS</b>	Ghana Statistical Service
<b>HFFG</b>	Hope for Future Generations
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HPs</b>	Harmful Practices
<b>IAWGE</b>	Inter-Agency Working Group for Emergencies
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>Kayayei</b>	Young girls who work as head porters in market places who are often live on the streets
<b>M &amp; E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MHS</b>	Maternal Health Survey
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MoGCSP</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health

<b>OF</b>	Obstetric Fistula
<b>OOS</b>	Out of School
<b>PASS</b>	Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces
<b>PAYDP</b>	Purim African Youth Development Platform
<b>PCC</b>	Parent-Child Communication
<b>P &amp; D</b>	Population and Development
<b>PHC</b>	Population and Housing Census
<b>PoA</b>	Programme of Action
<b>PPAG</b>	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
<b>RCC</b>	Regional Coordinating Councils
<b>SEHP</b>	Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infection
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UBRAF</b>	Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WiLDAF</b>	Women in Law and Development in Africa
<b>YLFC</b>	Youth Leaders For Change
<b>YoLe Fellows</b>	Youth Leaders Fellows
<b>YoLe Fellowship</b>	Youth Leaders Fellowship Programme
<b>YPLHIV</b>	Young Persons Living HIV

# Acknowledgments

The contributions of the following are gratefully acknowledged.

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## **Operations Support**

Daisy Gaye, Norine Quaye, Godwin Adzaku, Abdallah Iddrisu, Jonathan Nusetor, Amanda Odame, Emmanuel Adare, Mercy Love Alfa, Florence Beweleyir, Kingsley Morcher and Irene Danquah

Appreciation to the entire Ghana Country Office Staff particularly Drivers, Interns, Volunteers, National Service Personnel and Youth Leadership Fellows whose contributions made the 2019 programme a success and the report worth scripting.

## **Photography:**

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## **Design:**

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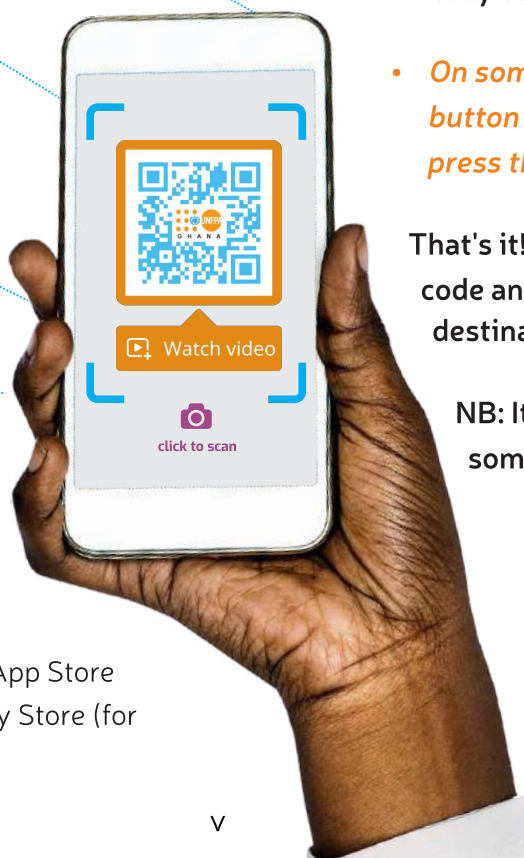
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# CHAPTER ONE

# 1

# Integrated Family Planning and Comprehensive Maternal Health Services

Agnes Addy is a young midwife from Somanya in the Eastern Region of Ghana. She has six years of midwifery experience working at the Bolgatanga Regional Hospital in the former Upper East Region. With support from UNFPA Ghana, Agnes was voted the Best Midwife in the Upper East Region for 2018.

Agnes feels very humbled whenever she thinks of the award she received for Best Midwife in the Upper East Region. It is an honour that motivates her to keep working hard, and she calls on her fellow midwives to commit to excellence in their chosen profession, which has an invaluable impact on society.

A photograph of a midwife, Agnes Addy, in a hospital setting. She is wearing a white patterned scrub top and a white surgical cap. She is leaning over a newborn baby who is lying on a bed. The baby is wrapped in a white cloth. In the background, there is a medical monitor with the brand name 'Ampla' and 'FANEM' visible. The monitor shows a red digital display with the number '30'. The midwife is looking down at the baby with a focused expression.

**“ Nothing can be compared to the joy and fulfilment I feel when I assist a woman to safely bring a child into the world”.**

● *Ms Agnes Addy of Bolgatanga Regional Hospital*

## Background

Ghana's population is characterised by a “youth bulge”, the result of high fertility rates stemming from reduced maternal and neo-natal deaths and high unmet need for family planning (FP).

To improve maternal health outcomes and achieve a positive outlook for overall reproductive health in Ghana, the role of skilled birth attendants, especially midwives, and FP commodity security cannot be overemphasized.

In collaboration with government stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ghana Health Service (GHS), and civil society organisations like the Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR), the UNFPA Ghana Country Office is working to achieve the objectives of the 7th Country Programme Document (2018–2022) for Ghana.

## Areas of Focus

Programme interventions in 2019 focused on three main areas and contributed to the first output of the Country Programme Document 2018–2022:

### A. Family Planning

Family planning is central to gender equality and women's empowerment and key to reducing poverty. In 2019, UNFPA Ghana worked in partnership with the MoH, GHS, and other development partners to ensure a steady and reliable supply of quality contraceptives; strengthen national health systems; advocate for policies supportive of family planning; and gather data to support this work.

### B. Maternal Health including Obstetric Fistula

Making motherhood safer is a human right imperative and a core mandate of UNFPA. The Country Office worked with the MoH, the GHS, the two Midwifery Association's (GRMA and NARM), National Task Team on Obstetric Fistula and civil society to train health workers; improve the availability of essential medicines and reproductive health services; and provide strategic vision, technical guidance and support, and funds for fistula prevention, treatment, and social reintegration.

### C. Humanitarian Assistance

UNFPA collaborated with the Inter-Agency Working Group for Emergencies (IAWGE) on the post-conflict situation in Ghana's Chereponi District. The Chereponi conflict is a protracted conflict spanning more than three years between two ethnic groups, the Kokombas and Chokosis. The conflict is primarily over land ownership and was renewed in 2019. Sixteen communities and over 5,000 people were affected, including women and children. Over 2,000 people were displaced and there were about 15 deaths. Many people lost their properties and farmlands.

# Progress

## Family Planning

**1,500** health service providers

across the erstwhile 10 regions were trained on how to train clients to use self-administered injectable contraception.



**80** health logistics officers had their capacity strengthened on the management of health commodities.

## Maternal Health including Obstetric Fistula

**28** preceptors from 11 midwifery training schools were trained on how to establish conducive environments for teaching and learning.

**57** midwives from **4** regions trained in several life-saving skills to recognise and respond to life threatening obstetric and neo-natal emergencies.

Midwives at Tamale in the Northern Region were shown how to use the **Safe Delivery App** and reported that the training boosted their confidence in managing complex cases.



**2** midwives received support to attend the International Confederation of Midwives Regional Conference in Windhoek, Namibia



International  
Confederation  
of Midwives

# Advocacy

**The benefits of FP were communicated through media engagements** on World Contraception Day to garner support and commitment to allocating a larger share of the national budget for FP.



## Maternal Health Including Obstetric Fistula

About: **Gh¢ 60,115**

**in domestic resources and sanitary items mobilized** for obstetric fistula repair surgeries and hygiene needs of obstetric fistula victims.



80

**Media personnel and stakeholders** sensitized on Obstetric Fistula at a press briefing on the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula.

14

**Midwives** honored for their life-saving work on the International Day of the Midwife

▼ Awarding of Midwives by UNFPA by Mr. Niyi Ojuolape Ghana Country Representative



## Humanitarian Assistance

Jointly commemorated World Humanitarian Day with other UN agencies under the theme “Women Humanitarian”, with a panel discussion that focused on the important roles women play in humanitarian responses.

# 30

### Members of the media

oriented on humanitarian assistance on World Humanitarian Day.

▼ Participants at the World Humanitarian Day Commemoration



# Service Provision Family Planning

World Contraception Day (26th September) expanded to a Family Planning Week celebration that had the following impact:



# 180

women and girls aged **15 to 45** took up various FP methods, especially implants

# 80

young people aged **15 to 24** screened for HIV and STIs



## 1,000 male condoms & 300 female condoms

distributed to vulnerable adolescents and young people

Effective tracking of FP commodities ensured availability throughout the year.

## Lessons Learnt:

- As UNFPA continues its advocacy, capacity building and service provision in the areas of family planning, maternal health (including obstetric fistula), and humanitarian assistance, several key lessons have been learnt:
- Political commitment to FP increases commodity security.
- Media engagement and sensitization on FP issues is effective in increasing cultural acceptance of FP methods.
- Intensifying demand creation efforts for FP among young people and adolescents reduces the persistent abuse of emergency contraceptive pills.
- Supporting capacity building efforts for midwives and preceptors improves Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) and maternal health outcomes.
- Raising awareness of obstetric fistula helps to mobilize local resources for repair surgeries.
- Collaborative work with UN agencies and IAWGE improves the delivery of comprehensive humanitarian response, especially for women and girls.



▲ A volunteer nurse counsels a young woman before she takes up a FP method at a Family Planning Week outreach



▲ A young mother receives information on various types of FP during a Family Planning Week outreach.



◀ Dramatization of the role of midwives in communities during an International Day of the Midwife celebration in Bolgatanga.



# CHAPTER TWO





## Empowering Young People, especially Adolescent Girls

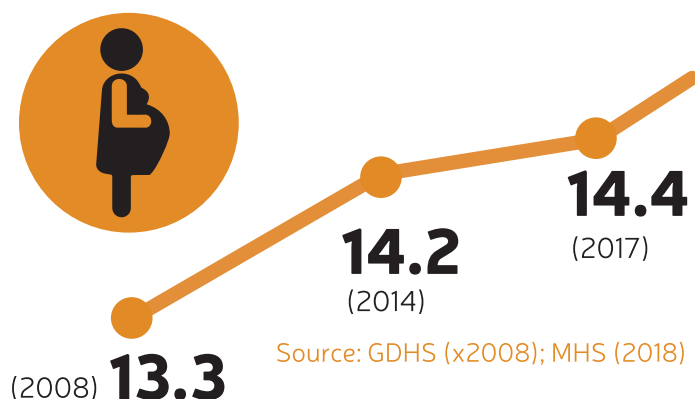
Meet Naa Adjeley, an adolescent girl who lives in Jamestown, a densely populated fishing community in Accra. She became pregnant while in Senior High School and had to drop out. She is one of many adolescent girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy.

Naa joined the UNFPA-supported Adolescent and Youth Club (YoLe Young and Wise) when she was eight weeks pregnant. Naa says she would have been in a better place if she had the information she has now before becoming sexually active. She refers adolescent girls in her area to the adolescent corner at Ussher Polyclinic, a clinic supported by UNFPA. She is currently arranging to go back to school to fulfil her dreams.

# Background

Adolescents (especially girls) and youth face numerous risks and vulnerabilities that have been increasingly recognized in Ghana. Adolescents (15 – 19 years) make up 5.5 million of the country's population. Half of this population is female.

This group has experienced a steady increase in adolescent fertility from 2008 to 2017, as 14 out of every 100 adolescent girls has already begun childbearing (GDHS, 2018).



National prevalence of Child Marriage remains high with 1 in 5 girls married before age 18 (MICS 2018). The situation is further aggravated by high unmet need for Family Planning for married and unmarried adolescent girls, and high acceptance of gender-based violence among adolescent girls and boys.

Also, very low HIV comprehensive knowledge exists among young people aged 15 – 24 years, especially young females. 20 per cent of young males have comprehensive knowledge on HIV as compared to 17 per cent of young females. The knowledge rate is even lower among young persons in detention and other vulnerable populations. The Ghana AIDS Commission estimated that the HIV prevalence among young people aged 15-19 stands at about 0.6 %.

In view of these, UNFPA rolls out interventions through the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), the Norway out-of-school CSE project and the UN Joint Programme on Empowering Adolescent Girls.

▼ Adolescent girls contributing to discussions at AHAC 2019



# Areas of Focus

Throughout 2019, interventions were implemented in partnership with the GHS, Ghana Education Service (GES), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service, regional coordinating councils and sub-implementing partners, and civil society organizations (CSOs) i.e. PPAG, ARHR, PAYDP Ghana, HFFG, YLFC, AfriYAN, and AAG.

## A. Empowering Adolescent Girls

The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Empowering Adolescent Girls, funded by the Canadian government, aims to empower adolescent girls in Ghana through improved access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) and rights-based quality sexual and reproductive health services. It includes initiatives such as:

### Leaving no one behind

#### The Autism-SRHR/SGBV Setting

(implemented by Autism Ambassadors of Ghana)

### Promoting informed choices

#### YoLe Clubs

(implemented by PPAG, PAYPD, ARHR)

### Removing barriers

#### Because I Want to Be

(implemented by The First Lady of Ghana's Rebecca Foundation)

The Joint Programme targets adolescent girls (10–19 years) in and out of school, married and unmarried, pregnant adolescents, adolescent mothers, girls with disabilities, refugees, and migrant girls (specifically Kayayei) as primary beneficiaries, and young women aged 20–24 years as secondary beneficiaries, across 30 districts.

UNFPA Ghana employed a multi-sectoral approach with the government, civil society, traditional authorities, faith-based organizations, academia, the private sector and the media at national, regional and district levels to:

**Create demand for rights and services**

**Supply quality, gender responsive ASRH services**

**Facilitate an enabling environment for ASRH service delivery and gender equality**

## **B. HIV Awareness, Prevention & Treatment**

The UNAIDS-funded UBRAF works towards the “90-90-90” target: 90% of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status; 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy; and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy reaching viral suppression.

The project targets young people, including those in detention. Under the OOS ASRH Project, UNFPA is supporting government through the Ghana Prisons Service and civil society to empower and equip adolescents and youth in detention and young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) with information and skills to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and well-being, to help achieve the UN 90-90-90 target.

## **C. Empowering Out-of-School Adolescents and Youth**

The Out-of-School CSE project funded by the Norwegian government aims to empower and equip specific groups of adolescents and young people that have been left behind with information and skills to make informed choices about their SRHR and well-being.

## Progress

Combined efforts with government, civil society and other stakeholders contributed to the following progress:

### Capacity Building

# 296

**Faith-based Organization (FBO) leaders** on ASHR, SRHR, gender equality and SGBV/HPs at regional and district levels through wide ranging step-down activities.

These leaders have engaged with an additional

# 581

**FBO Leaders**

and are implementing a variety of social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities in their constituencies.

# 107,634

**Young People**

including young persons with disabilities, reached with SRH and SGBV modules through innovative social mobilization approaches by YoLe Fellows and CSOs.

# 364

**Traditional Leaders**

have received orientation on SRHR and SGBV issues, and are engaging adolescent girls through a variety of rights and protection strategies.

# 231

**School and Community Adolescent Health Clubs**

strengthened/established and supported to organise club meetings. These have enhanced in-school SRHR education for adolescents, providing them a safe space to discuss their development and sexuality.

The peer-to-peer interactions promote adolescents voices, participation and agency on issues that affect them.



# 149

## **community-based distributors (e.g. chemical sellers)**

were engaged/oriented on distribution to young people and reporting on contraceptives (i.e. data management), bridging an access gap to services and improving the delivery of adolescent and youth friendly health services (AYFHS).

## **Handbook for Parent Child Communication (PCC) developed and 150 parents trained.**

Parents have conducted step-down training activities for an additional 261 parents



# 537

**Health Workers and Front line Staff**  
trained on ASRH service delivery

# 2

## **SGBV market response centres**

have been launched at Agbogloboshie and Madina.

These serve as first call-centres in events of abuse at the market.

Market queens and mothers have been trained to serve as paralegals

# 10,825

## **girls received SRHR and legal literacy training**

on where to seek help if they experience any kind of SGBV.

## **National Operational Guidelines and Standards for Youth Friendly Services were updated.**

# 1,000

**Copies each of the National Operational Guidelines and reporting tools were printed.**

# 50,212

## **adolescent girls sensitized**

by health workers on gender-responsive issues related to SRH and abortion.

# 900

## **adolescents reached**

with information on HIV prevention, menstrual hygiene management practices and SRHR by YoLe Fellows and CSOs.

# 16

## **YoLe Fellows capacity built**

in programming and project management, social change and developing human interest stories

# 50

## **young leaders-capacity built**

in HIV prevention and HIV messaging to double awareness-raising efforts among adolescents and youth

# Advocacy

## 35

### **35 evidence-based dialogues conducted**

on ICPD, SGBV, and ASRH issues with diverse constituents, such as parliamentarians, traditional leaders, CSOs, Social Service Committee members FBOs, and others. This supports ongoing efforts by FBO leaders and stakeholder commitments to creating enabling environments for gender equality, ASRH and service delivery to adolescent girls.

### **Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services**

## 60,029

**girls provided with SRH services,** with 16,318 adolescent girls referred for facility or outreach contraceptive services.

## 144,000

### **sets of implants (Jadelle) procured**

with Imperial Logistics, facilitating an integrated public health sector distribution system involving the Global Fund and USAID.

▲  
*A Family Planning Facilitator  
presenting a Jadelle implant*

# Mentorship

# 3,589

## girls engaged

in various mentoring programmes (including the First Lady and Members of Parliament) to develop life skills and leadership mindsets that can change their lives and help them fulfil their potential and aspirations.



*First Lady of  
The Republic of Ghana,  
Rebecca Akufo-Addo,*

## Lessons Learnt:

The UNFPA Ghana Country Office ensured that national efforts were strengthened by building on evidence and knowledge generated in its programming.

A variety of strategic interventions were also rolled out through a multi-stakeholder approach, including the generation of evidence and strategic information and advocacy and dialogue with high-level policymakers and relevant stakeholders.

The use of online and digital platforms complemented earlier efforts to empower adolescents and youth. Involving key stakeholders, including the public, at all levels of programming also enhanced ownership and improved the prospect that these interventions would be sustainable over the long term.



Watch video



▲ An adolescent mother benefiting from UNFPA's ASRH interventions



▲ Adolescents participating in the Adolescents Health Ambassadors Camp

# CHAPTER THREE

# 3

# A Coordinated Response to Protecting the Rights of Women and Girls and Ending Sexual and Gender -Based Violence and Harmful Practices

**“I am really surprised to learn that female genital mutilation (FGM) is a human rights violation.”** 67-year-old Chief in Nima. At a sensitization session for the Zongo community in Nima-Accra, he pledged to ensure that the Nima community would never engage in the act again.

# Background

As in most parts of the world, women in Ghana, and adolescent girls in particular, are vulnerable to SGBV and HPs. Despite a plethora of policies and laws to protect women and girls, they remain at risk of sexual and domestic violence, female genital cutting, child marriage, and other forms of violence.

According to the 2016 research report, “Domestic Violence in Ghana: Incidence, Attitudes, Determinants and Consequences”, 27.7 per cent of women experienced at least one type of domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Additionally, 23.1 per cent of women and 13.8 per cent of men found wife-beating acceptable, while 65.3 per cent of women and 56.2 per cent of men fully agreed that

women were to blame for rape if they wore revealing clothes.

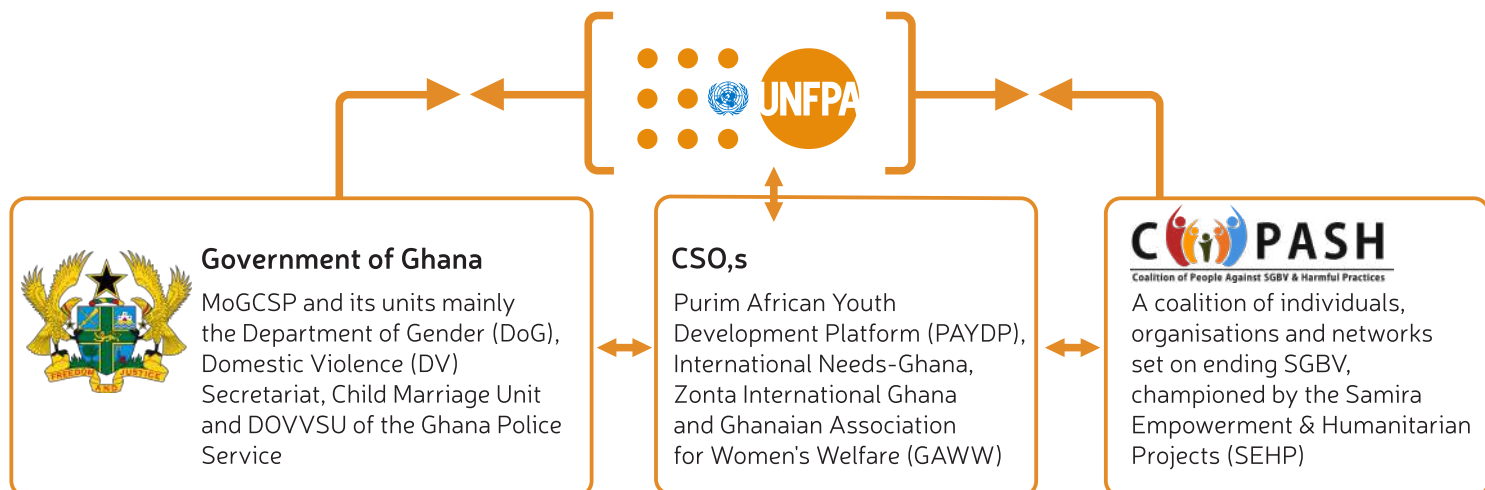
Harmful practices also persist in the name of culture and tradition despite moderate gains. The prevalence of child marriage is now at 19 per cent (2017/2018 MICS) – a small but important reduction from the 21 per cent reported in the 2014 GDHS.

Ghana is among 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where female genital mutilation (FGM) is still prevalent, despite efforts to put a complete stop to the practice

## Areas of Focus

### A. Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices

In 2019, UNFPA collaborated with state agencies and CSOs to prevent and manage SGBV/HPs in Ghana, and to advocate for and raise awareness of SGBV issues.



## B. Engaging Men and Boys

Gender equality cannot be achieved without the involvement of men and boys. Men and boys are increasingly working alongside women to support gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. UNFPA engaged regional coordinating councils, duty bearers and stakeholders, and individual men and boys to advance gender equality and end gender-based violence.

## Progress



*Wife of The Vice President of The Republic of Ghana, Samira Bawumia,*

**The first general meeting of CoPASH was hosted by H.E. Samira Bawumia, Second Lady of Ghana.** The meeting garnered stakeholder support from over 20 UN agencies, government, CSOs and the private sector, which committed their influence and resources to end SGBV and harmful practices.

**CoPASH, in collaboration with UNFPA, commemorated International Women's Day** with an event that hosted over 50 women leaders in the diplomatic corps, UN and public and private sectors, as well as 10 survivors of gender-based violence. It was a time of sharing and healing for survivors, and the event raised awareness of the need to uphold women's rights.

### **To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation,**

UNFPA Ghana, in collaboration with the Ghanaian Association for Women's Welfare (GAWW), organized a one-day advocacy and sensitization session for 100 chiefs, religious leaders, students, youth, parents, men's and women's groups, and community members in Nima.

**30** divisional and district police commanders

were trained in SGBV, reproductive health and rights, the role of the police in dealing with SGBV, aspects of community-coordinated response systems, and laws covering SGBV/DV.

**DOVVSU was supported to scale up its data management system,**

the DOVVSU Online Data Management System (DODMAS), at the national secretariat and

19 other divisions and districts for data capture nationwide.



**470** **Copies of the Legislative Instrument of the Domestic Violence Act**

were printed with support from UNFPA. DOVVSU also organized a training of trainers (ToT) event for its regional and divisional coordinators to train officers on the standardized case management codified handbook.

**10,961** **men and boys have been engaged**

in interactive sessions on gender equality, SRHR, and SGBV prevention. This has increased male participation in supporting girls and creating safe spaces for adolescent girls.

**100** **copies of the UNFPA guidelines for engaging men and boys**

were printed and disseminated to partners for these engagement activities.

**16** **Days of Activism Against SGBV/HPs**

activities advocated for the end of SGBV/HPs through national and regional launch events and marches

**1,500** **people**  
An estimated reached daily with SGBV messages through murals on three major streets in Accra.

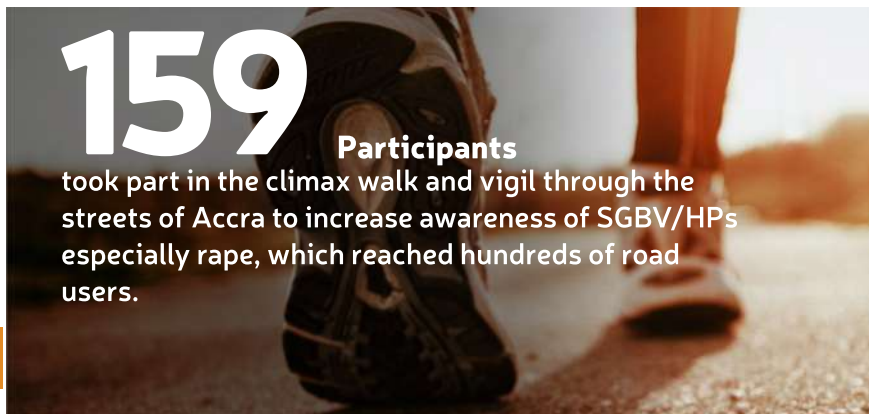
**100** **Tertiary students reached**  
More than with information on SGBV through the Drama Queens' "Let's Talk Consent".

**52** **Kayayei girls trained**  
as peer educators and SGBV champions held a flash mob at the Agbogbloshie Market.

**9,000** **road users in Accra reached**  
over

through the WiLDAF "Faces of Violence Street Campaign" to end SGBV.

**159** **Participants**  
took part in the climax walk and vigil through the streets of Accra to increase awareness of SGBV/HPs especially rape, which reached hundreds of road users.





## Mentorship

**6,907**

**marginalized young girls  
empowered and positioned**

to improve the prevention of SGBV through various mentorship activities with PASS, the SISTAS Initiative, and the concluding child marriage programme.

**In line with UNFPA's Global Programme to  
End Child Marriage,**

**40** in-school and kayayei girls participated in the annual Chief Justice Mentorship Programme to motivate them to pursue their education and other life goals.

**265**

**safe space meetings held and over**

**6,000**

**adolescent girls engaged**

in interactive sessions to empower them to make positive and informed decisions about their sexuality, relationships and marriage.

## Capacity building

### 2 SGBV market response centres launched

at Agbogbloshie and Madina markets and 15 market women/traders trained as paralegals for the centres.

### 3 Integrated Enterprise Development Centers launched

at Vatican City, Techiman, and Asokore Mampong to provide marginalized girls with a safe space to receive alternate livelihood training, as well as gender-sensitive SRH information and services



▲ Integrated Enterprise Centre commissioned by Mr. Niyi Ojuolape Ghana Country Representative

### over 500 kayayei engaged

at the inaugural Kayayei Business and Leadership Fair, which was organized to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in dialogue on improving the well-being of kayayei.



### 60 DOVVSU Coordinators trained

on the Legislative Instrument of the Domestic Violence Act, an SGBV Case Protocol and Codified Handbook for Standardized Case Management.

## Lessons Learnt:

Collaboration with strategic partners and influencers at events like the 16 Days of Activism and International Women's Day increased the visibility and widened the scope of discussions and advocacy on GBV.

Partnering with the media increased media coverage of SGBV/HP issues and reached more people.

# CHAPTER FOUR

# 4

# Background

## Data to Address Inequalities and Achieve the SDGs

The role of data in addressing inequality cannot be overemphasized. The UNFPA Ghana Country Office has focused its data-generating activities on Ghana's capacity to harness the demographic dividend through the collection and reporting of quality demographic data.

For example, data from 2013 showed a higher proportion of females than males had not received any form of education, employment or training. However, in 2016, female enrolment in primary school was higher.

Tracking these indices over time has only been possible through analysis of quality data, which has remained a priority of UNFPA Ghana.

# Areas of Focus

In partnership with the Government of Ghana and other development partners, the Country Office supports data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, and integrating demographic variables into policy, planning, and implementation.

## A. Population and Housing Census

A population and housing census (PHC) is one of the most complex and large-scale peacetime exercises a nation can undertake. It requires careful planning, resourcing, and implementation. In 2019, the Country Office provided the Ghana Statistical Service with technical and financial support to ensure the scheduled 2020 PHC is high quality, upholds international principles and standards, and generates data that is widely disseminated and used for development.

## B. Demographic Dividend

The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without ensuring that everyone —women and men, girls and boys — enjoy dignity and human rights to expand their capabilities, secure their reproductive health and rights, find decent work, and contribute to economic growth. Developing policies and investments to secure that future requires that governments know the size, sex, location and age structure of their current and future population. With youth accounting for 30 per cent of its population, Ghana is a country with one of the greatest demographic opportunities. Investing in the working-age population will lead to good health, quality education, decent employment, and a lower proportion of young dependents.

To understand the demographics of its young population and implement youth-centered policies, Ghana, with financial support from UNFPA, is developing the 2019 Youth Development Index, which will measure the progress of youth development in the country.

# Progress

## Capacity Building and Technical Support

2

YoLe Fellows worked in the field as PHC trial census personnel.

2

GSS staff staff participated in the “Regional Training Course in CSPro Android-Data Collection using Household Devices”.



An adolescent girl with a keen interest in conducting routine analysis of programme processes and outcome data participated in the 9th African Evaluation Association International Conference in Côte d'Ivoire.

18

young people from Young Emerging Evaluators Ghana received support to develop skills and insights in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and quality assurance processes to promote M&E among youth.

ToT conducted for senior level personnel for the second phase of the 2020 PHC trial census.

Facilitated a detail assignment for the Ethiopian Chief Census Officer on secondment to the GSS.

## Advocacy and Knowledge Sharing

Increased political and financial support for census activities from government and development partners, culminating in the mobilization of

\$300,000

from the International Organization on Migration (IOM) to support the census.

Census committee headed by the Minister of Finance to oversee the successful conduct of the 2020 PHC.



▲ Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance of The Republic of Ghana



- ▲ For Ghana Statistical Service & UNFPA Census Field Officers, difficult terrain was no barrier to the
- ▼ determined field officers (nor were water crossings)



**2** successful trial censuses conducted to gauge the applicability of the Computer Assisted Personnel Interview (CAPI) compared to other innovations.

The coordinated approach increased the number of responses to the nationality question on the census about accommodating statelessness.

**Hosted the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development and the Parliament of Ghana Caucus on Population and Development** to advocate and share knowledge on universal health coverage (UHC), health financing and increased access to essential UHC and reproductive health commodities.

**Organised a dialogue between parliamentarians as part of the Year of Return activities in Ghana on the theme, “Year of Return: Achieving the Demographic Dividend – the role of Parliamentarians” (CACPD)** 14 parliamentarians from the diaspora and 15 from Ghana participated in the three-day event.

## Lessons Learnt:

Mobilization of technical support for the census was made easier through south-south cooperation.



# CHAPTER FIVE

# 5

## **Special Initiatives, Innovations and Partnerships**

Achieving transformative results is a journey, and success depends on collective efforts. “No more business as usual” is the idea driving the Country Office's special initiatives, innovations, and strategic partnerships. The following efforts are turning dreams into action:

- 1. Tripartite Celebrations**
- 2. The 3rd China-Africa Conference on Population and Development**
- 3. Friends of UNFPA**
- 4. Year of Return**
- 5. The YoLe Fellowship Programme**
- 6. WAWA ABA**

# The Tripartite Celebrations Of ICPD25, UNFPA@50 and Fred Sai@95 in Ghana

## Background and Context



▲ The President of The Republic Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and dignitaries cutting the cake in celebration of the 95th birthday of Prof. Fred T. Sai, a foremost Family Planning & Women's Rights Advocate

In 1969, the UN declared family planning as a basic human right and UNFPA was born. Twenty-five years later in Cairo, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action became the blueprint for UNFPA's work. In 2019, UNFPA turned 50! Hurray! Professor Fred T. Sai, Chairperson of the main ICPD Conference Committee in Cairo in 1994 and considered the father of the ICPD in Africa, also had a landmark birthday in 2019, turning 95 years.

UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem joined the government and the people of Ghana to commemorate these three significant milestones:

**50 years of UNFPA's life-saving work for millions around the world, 25 years since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 95th birthday of Professor Fred Sai.**

The celebrations coincided with the 3rd China-Africa Conference on Population and Development, held under the auspices of the Government of Ghana and hosted by the Ministry of Planning and the National Population Council with support from UNFPA and the Government of China through the China Population and Research Centre.

## Progress

**Over 350 people participated in this tripartite celebration, including His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, the First Lady, Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo, representatives from UN agencies, the diplomatic corps, other development partners, government officials and CSOs.**

Ministers from 10 African countries, population experts and youth representatives from across Africa and China were also in attendance.



▲ **The Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Natalia Kanem delivered a birthday message (The Prof I Know) that captured the personal and professional life of Prof. Sai and his contribution to development, in Ghana, regionally and globally.**



▲ **Dr. Kanem also commissioned the CO's ultra-modern youth innovation and incubation centre, the "Orange Loft", where young people can develop and hone their skills and find innovative solutions to the many reproductive health challenges they face.**



## Lessons Learnt

The celebrations brought together two continents (Africa and Asia) in the spirit of south-south cooperation, creating a new platform for the ICPD agenda, galvanizing a renewed response to the SRHR agenda in Africa and China and strengthening commitments made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.

# The 3rd China-Africa Conference On Population And Development

## Background and Context

2019 was a landmark year for many issues in UNFPA's mandate, which were first given impetus by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. The Programme of

**“Population Data Management and Universal Access to Reproductive Health as Key Drivers of Sustainable Development”.**

This south-south cooperation brought together government officials, academia, experts and civil society professionals, among others, to exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences, and review the progress and challenges in implementing the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action. The conference provided the opportunity for African countries and China to learn from each other and how population data management and universal access to reproductive health can help to achieve the SDGs.



▲ Opening ceremony of the 3rd China-Africa Conference on Population and Development in Accra, Ghana

Action that came out of the conference has given life to population and development policies, planning, strategies, summits, commitments, research, and conferences. In 2019, the Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Planning and the National Population Council with support from UNFPA, hosted the 3rd Africa-China Conference on Population and Development in Accra, Ghana under the theme,



Watch video

## Progress

35

- abstracts were approved for the knowledge-sharing conference and presented orally and as posters.

The conference produced an outcome document approved and endorsed by delegates.

The first-ever Youth4Youth Forum was held on the sidelines of the CACPD,

bringing together **345** young people from China and **18** countries across Africa to improve youth participation in decisions about their health and well-being.



Watch video



Group photograph of participants at the maiden Youth4Youth Forum held on the sidelines of the 3rd China-Africa Conference on Population and Development

# Friends of UNFPA, Ghana

## Background and Context

Friends of UNFPA is an initiative that promotes the health, dignity and rights of women and girls around the world by supporting the life-saving work of UNFPA through education, advocacy and fundraising.

Despite the efforts and enormous achievements by the Government of Ghana in collaboration with UNFPA, some 319 women still die every year from pregnancy or childbirth-related causes. However, most development partners are leaving the reproductive health sector now that Ghana is a middle-income country.

In line with the government's vision of Ghana beyond Aid, Ms. Claudia Lumor, UNFPA Honorary Ambassador, championed the launch of Friends of UNFPA in Ghana to create awareness, advocate and raise funds to support UNFPA's work to expand opportunities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives.



▲ Representative from Canada Global Affairs delivering remarks at the launch of Friends of UNFPA in Ghana

## Progress

Professor Esi Sutherland, academic and gender advocate, commended UNFPA for its immense contribution to Ghana in promoting the health and well-being of women and girls.

Over **200** allies sensitized on the life-saving work of UNFPA.  
**100** development partners, influential individuals from the private sector, traditional leaders, the judiciary and journalists signed up to become Friends of UNFPA and promised to recruit more members through their networks.

Traditional leaders in attendance vowed to educate community members to reduce sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.



▲ Traditional Leaders who joined the launch of Friends of UNFPA in Ghana



▲ Participants at the launch of Friends of UNFPA in Ghana

The Norwegian Ambassador to Ghana reiterated Norway's commitment to support the work of UNFPA in delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

The Canadian Ambassador also commended UNFPA on the AGP programme, which is being funded by the Canadian government and pledged its continued support.

## Lesson Learnt:

Getting non UNFPA staff to champion the cause of the organization, yields resounding success and keeps the ICPD mandate alive.

# The YoLe Fellowship Programme



▲ UNFPA Ghana Country Rep, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape with the first cohort of YoLe fellows at the Youth-Led SWOP Launch in April 2019

## Background and Context

Whereas the UN definition of youth includes people aged 10 to 24, Ghana's definition captures everyone from age 15 to 35. Adolescents (10 to 19 years) constitute roughly a quarter of Ghana's population while young people (10 to 24 years) constitute a third of the total population.

Young people face unique problems and uncertainties, such as limited opportunities for education and training, viable employment, access to

health and social services, and poverty.

In line with the United Nations Youth Strategy, which calls on UN agencies to influence and expand global, regional and country-level action to address the needs and build the agency of young people, as well as UNFPA's mission to deliver a world where every young person's potential is fulfilled, UNFPA Ghana established the Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme in 2018.

## Progress

**16** young people between the ages of 21 and 26 were recruited into the 2018/2019 inaugural cohort of the Youth Leaders Fellowship Programme.



**2** days of skills training in photography and videography enabled them to document the Country Office's work.

YoLe Fellows' engagement with Toasted Life at the Orange Loft



They completed

**120** hours of training on professional development, with sessions held three hours a week for 40 weeks.

They spent approximately

**420** hours studying Health Innovation.

They organised over

**25** community outreach events on UNFPA's work, increasing the number of people reached by UNFPA. These included and not limited to:

- Family Planning week in Ghana
- World AIDS Day commemoration
- Men and boys engagement at Old Fadama on SRHR issues
- International Women's Day Outreach in Chorkor
- Menstrual Health Hygiene Outreaches in schools
- 16 Days of Activism Vigil for 2018 and 2019

The Youth Fellows each spent **24** hours a week for **42** weeks to support Country Office staff in implementing programmes, reducing staff burnout during this time.

After **12** months of intensive training, learning and coaching,

**6** gained admission to universities in Ghana and abroad to pursue higher degrees in various fields: Public Health, International Relations, Development, Conflict Resolution and Humanitarianism,

**8** others secured opportunities with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNFPA and the private sector.



▲ UNFPA WCARO Regional Director, Mr. Mabingue Ngom, speaking at the launch of the 1st cohort of YoLe Fellows.



Watch video

# WAWA ABA

## Background and Context

In 2019, in partnership with the WFP, UNFPA called for innovations to end unmet need for family planning and accelerate universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. The WAWA ABA solution was one of 74 applications submitted worldwide. The Country Office joined eight other countries whose solutions were selected for testing and possible scale-up.

WAWA ABA, a web-based platform, is an advanced crowdsourcing multi-channel resource that provides information on traditional and non-traditional sources of contraceptives.

The WAWA ABA solution is an exciting innovation that could improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes among adolescents and young people. Accessible offline, the platform points users to health centres and allows them to contribute information, comment on and rate centres, and provide translations in local languages. This greatly expands the reach of the information to hard-to-reach populations with an unmet need, for example, rural populations, adolescents, persons with disabilities or those who are not literate.



▲ A young user of the Wawa ABA App

## Progress

**3** UNFPA staff and 1 key IT partner **Strengthened their capacity** in innovative human-centered design and design-thinking processes at an Innovation Boot Camp in Munich, Germany.

Over **500** **Vulnerable in- and out-of-school adolescents** were engaged to co-create content for the WAWA ABA innovation.

Over **800** **Marginalised out-of-school adolescents and young people** from peri-urban and

rural slums, including hairdressers, solar panel technicians, street hawkers and storekeepers, were reached with the WAWA ABA prototype during the iteration process.

**A working version of WAWA ABA has been developed.**

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## Lessons Learnt:

Innovation is critical to finding solutions to age-old challenges.



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