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We call our three overarching results “transformative” for a reason. They have the power to transform the lives of women and girls, but they will also transform communities and our world.

Dr. Natalia Kanem,
Executive Director, UNFPA
We want to see an Africa where the girl child stays in school, is able to complete her education and has the ability to make right and informed choices for her well being.

Dereje Wordofa, Deputy Executive Director, Programme
To empower young people means giving them the tools to become even more influential and productive actors in their societies.

Mbingue Ngom, Regional Director, UNFPA WCARO
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Introducing Augmented Reality in to UNFPA Ghana Annual reports.

AR is a technology that combines virtual reality with the real world in the form of live video imagery that is digitally enhanced with computer-generated graphics. This technology adds digital elements to a live view often by using the camera on a smartphone.

The AR give users a detailed and more information about UNFPA activities in the year 2018 and makes it exciting to read it is an interactive experience of a real-world environment where the objects that reside in the real-world are "augmented".

Reading long pages of reports and documents can get a bit monotonous. This is why UNFPA Ghana in its 2018 annual reports introduced this innovation to engage the senses with motion, to deliver the data and statistics with a story. We utilize data, print and still imagery and this is possible through the aid of a technological tool: Augmented Reality (AR).

TAKE A CHANCE, get acquainted with this transforming world of education and entertainment where content is accessed by simply scanning or viewing an image with a mobile device.

DOWNLOAD AR APP  SCAN PAGE  EXPERIENCE AR
Augmented reality content

The communication unit has provided additional content for this report using a free augmented app called HP Reveal. Here is how you can access the content:

1. **Download the HP Reveal app**
   The first time you open the app you will be asked to enable location and create an account. You need to create an account to be able to follow our channel.
   - [Android App on Google Play](#)
   - [Download on the App Store](#)

2. **Follow our channel**
   Use the search field in the app to find UNFPA Ghana channel, select our channel name and click the follow button.
   Here is our channel name:
   - [UNFPAGhana](#)

3. **Launch the camera**
   Tap the blue button at the bottom of the app to open the camera. When asked, allow HP Reveal to access your camera so you can scan images.

4. **Scan the trigger image**
   Hold your phone over the image on the pages or image marked with the Augmented Reality logo. The Augmented Reality content will appear in the app over the trigger image.
Can you imagine a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled? This is the critical vision that lies at the core of UNFPA’s global, regional and country efforts. As the political and financial climate evolves, so does the nature of our work. However, what remains constant is our determination to implement a people-centred approach, ensuring that the voiceless are given a seat at the table and are empowered to take control of their own futures.

We do this through our programmatic implementation that focuses on:

• Providing reproductive health care for women and youth;
• Ensuring that pregnant women everywhere have access to quality health services;
• Supporting reliable access to modern contraceptives;
• Preventing gender-based violence, which affects 1 in 3 women;
• Preventing adolescent pregnancy, and its related complications which are the leading cause of death for girls 15-19 years old;
• Spearheading efforts to end harmful practices including child marriage and female genital mutilation.
As an organization, we protect and promote human rights, ensuring that no one is left behind and making every effort to reach the furthest behind. For us to contribute meaningfully to the UNSDP(2018-2022) signed between the Government of Ghana and the UN agencies as well as working towards the 2030 agenda, we have to find means of not doing business as usual.

Ground-breaking approaches such as the UNFPA Ghana Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme was introduced to walk the talk of an organization that focuses on young people. 16 young university graduates have been recruited through the National Service Programme and are being trained and exposed to be self-sufficient in realizing their dreams. Another creation was bringing people from all fields; academia, judiciary, media amidst politics to ensuring zero tolerance to sexual and gender based violence through the establishment of the Coalition of People against SGBV and Harmful Practices (CoPASH).

In 2018, our programming reached 17,000 young people including 12,000 adolescent girls. We provided 4000 women with reproductive health information and services and collaborated with 2000 men through our men and boys’ engagement strategy.

Our evidence-based approach and strong focus on data was an essential element of the development planning we employed this year, and will remain a driving factor as we look towards a new year. We are proud to reflect on the concrete results presented in this annual report, but remain grounded in the conviction that we still have much work to do to achieve our collective goals.

A bold agenda requires bold actions and innovation. We look forward to continuing our work and collaboration with key partners for the good of Ghana particularly as UNFPA celebrates 50 years as an organization in 2019.
UNFPA programming is guided by its current Strategic Plan (SP 2018 -2021), which is aligned to the Global Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and to which all country programs are aligned. With the Fund's goal to achieve universal access to RH, the SP 2018-2021 stipulates the achievements of the three transformative goals namely:

i. **End preventable Maternal Deaths (zero maternal deaths)**

ii. **End unmet need for Family Planning, (zero unmet need)**

iii. **End Gender-Based Violence and all Harmful Practices, including Child Marriage (zero gender-based violence)**

The UNFPA Ghana Country Office (CO) has just completed the first year of its 7th Country Programme Document (CPD7). To operationalize the SP 2018 – 2021, the CO in partnership with the Government of Ghana developed the CPD7 which is aligned to the SP 2018 -2021 and government's development priorities on social development: creating an equitable, healthy and disciplined society (Ghana Medium-term Development Policy Framework (2018-2021). The CPD7 has four inter-related output areas through which to achieve the three transformative results by the year 2021. The CPD7 outputs are:

**Output 1:** Strengthened national capacity in delivering high-quality integrated family planning and comprehensive maternal health services, in particular for adolescents and youth, including in humanitarian settings.
Output 2: Young people, especially adolescent girls have skills and knowledge to claim and make informed choices about their SRHR and well-being, including in humanitarian settings.

Output 3: Strengthened national capacity to advance gender equality; prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices; and promote women and girls’ empowerment, including in humanitarian settings.

Output 4: Improved national population data systems to map and address inequalities, advance achievement of the SDGs and the ICPD, and inform interventions in times of humanitarian crisis.

The narrative of this 2018 UNFPA Ghana Annual Report follows the order of these CPD7 outputs and the chapters are so arranged. The report summarizes achievements per output area, working together with our partners and presents some feature articles of specific programs and initiatives implemented.

In response to UN Reforms and the Government of Ghana’s requests to the UN to Deliver as One (DaO), the CPD7 has been infused into the joint UN and GoG development framework called the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP 2018-2021) to guide development cooperation. The year 2018 is unique to the Ghana CO for a number of reasons, one of which is that 2018 marked the first year of implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021, the new Country Programme (CPD7) and the UNSDP 2018 – 2021. This report captures UNFPA Ghana Country Office’s contributions to the implementation of the UNSDP in 2018. The report also touches on some high-level and sustainable partnership initiatives of the CO which facilitated programme delivery.
CHAPTER ONE

Integrated Family Planning and Comprehensive Maternal Health Services
Output One of the 7th Country Programme of UNFPA Ghana is “Strengthened national capacity in delivering high-quality integrated family planning and comprehensive maternal health services, in particular for adolescents and youth, including in humanitarian settings”. Programming in areas like Maternal Health (Emergency maternal and Newborn Care (EmONC), Midwifery, Family Planning and Obstetric Fistula contribute to achieving this output. The strategies employed and achievements of the CO in the year 2018 as they contribute towards the overall achievement of this output are reflected in this chapter of the annual report.

Since 1990, the world has witnessed a 44 per cent reduction in maternal mortality ratio. Although Ghana did not achieve its Millennium Development Goal 5 target of reducing maternal mortality to 190 per 100,000 live births, it made impressive progress. The maternal mortality ratio decreased from 760 to 319 per 100,000 live births from 1990 to 2015, a decrease of about 42 per cent. Data from the Ghana Maternal Health Survey 2017, indicates that the maternal mortality rate has declined further to 310 per 100,000 live births. Although the national skilled-delivery rate is high (73 per cent in 2014 and 79 per cent in 2017), disparities across regions has curtailed its impact on maternal mortality reduction.
The contraceptive prevalence rate is 25 per cent. Ghana is committed to improving the modern contraceptive prevalence rate among sexually active married and unmarried adolescents by 2020, from 16.7 per cent and 31.5 per cent to 20 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively. It has been estimated that for every woman who dies out of obstetric complications, as many as 30 others are faced with serious or long lasting complications. In pursuit of its mission of “ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe”, the CO maternal health interventions targeted the specific areas of midwifery, family planning and obstetric fistula through an integrated approach. In 2018, UNFPA continued to strengthen the skills capacities of midwives, raise the quality of midwifery training and align curricula with international standards and raising the profile of the midwifery profession.
A

Expanding Quality Maternal Health Care Service to Save the Lives of Women and Girls

i. Saving the Lives of Mothers and Newborns Using Technology

The UNFPA Ghana CO in partnership with the Danish NGO (Maternity Foundation) introduced the “Safe Delivery App”, a training app which has been adapted for use by midwives in Ghana. Used in over 41 countries, the app features videos, action cards, procedures, drug lists and self-testing. Since its launch in Ghana, 213 midwives in Accra, Tamale, Kumasi and Koforidua have been trained in its use. It is envisaged that the usage of the app will result in a significant decrease in maternal and neo-natal deaths.

The Mathias Catholic Hospital in the Brong-Ahafo Region has adapted new protocols from the app as reference points for their midwives and staff; and these are displayed on the hospital’s walls. UNFPA consolidated its partnership with the Maternity Foundation through the signing of an MoU, and the Foundation’s integration into the UNFPA global campaign: “Safe Births Even Here”.
SAFE DELIVERY APP

- Infection Prevention
- Post Abortion Care
- Hypertension
- Active Management of Third Stage Labour
- Prolonged Labour
ii. **World Preeclampsia Day Celebrated in Ghana**

UNFPA Ghana, working jointly with the sole preeclampsia advocacy agency in Ghana; the Ghana Action on Preeclampsia (GHAPEC) engaged the Office of the First Lady of the Republic to celebrate the first ever World Pre-Eclampsia Day in Ghana. This was on 22nd May 2018, at the Greater Accra Regional Hospital (Ridge Hospital) under the theme “Preeclampsia be prepared before lightning strikes”.

H.E Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo called for increased awareness and action towards making pre-eclampsia a topical health issue that requires critical attention in the country. She informed Ghanaians that Preeclampsia is an obstetric complication characterized by high blood pressure, passing protein in the urine and swelling of the feet that pits with signs of multiple organ damage, most often the liver and kidneys. Preeclampsia usually begins after 20 weeks of pregnancy in women, whose blood pressure had previously been normal. She used statistics to support the fact that preeclampsia and Eclampsia is becoming the leading cause of maternal mortality in Ghana and regretted the non-availability of essential medicines and equipment in some facilities in Ghana to help avert these needless and preventable deaths.
iii. Enhancing the Capacities of Focal Persons from selected disaster-prone districts on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health.

According to the 2015 State of the World Population Report, every day, more than 500 women and girls die in emergency situations from complications due to pregnancy and childbirth.

Moreover, the risk of gender-based violence often increases during humanitarian crises, with severe, even fatal consequences for survivors. The unprecedented frequency, intensity and scope of humanitarian emergencies in the recent years have dramatically amplified these risks for millions of women and girls. UNFPA Ghana CO pledged to achieve its CPD 7 goals in both development and humanitarian context. Although Ghana is considered a stable country, with regards to humanitarian crisis, it is ranked highly among African countries prone to multiple weather-related hazards, such as floods. Annual floods in the country, especially during the rainy season, are a result of heavy rains, climate change, poor drainage systems, poor planning of land use and dam spillages, among other factors. Floods from dam spillage from Kompienga and Bagre dams (in Burkina Faso); and Weija, Akosombo and Kpong Dams (in Ghana), are frequent occurrence.

This puts communities in those areas at risk of floods. In addition to floods, there are perennial conflicts, arising from chieftaincy, ethnic and land disputes, particularly in the Northern, Upper East and Volta Regions. During such conflicts and natural disasters, among other emergencies, sexual and reproductive health needs can be staggering and easily neglected. At risk are vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, adolescents and people with disabilities. In such crises, access to reproductive health services, including family planning, is limited, leading to increasing morbidity, mortality and unwanted pregnancies. Women and young people are also susceptible to sexual exploitation, gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV infection. Additionally, the

iv. Humanitarian Response

In response to the request from NADMO to alleviate the suffering of the over 52,000 people displaced by the floods in northern Ghana, UNFPA Ghana Country Office donated 3,200 dignity kits and 2,050 buckets and washing “buttas” for distribution to affected victims.

Ghana’s nursing and midwifery strategic plan (2011-2016) ended in December 2016. The absence of a strategic plan (SP) to provide direction for the provision of nursing and midwifery services was an impediment to the country’s efforts towards the reduction and prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality. A review of the SP further uncovered the following implementation gaps:

- non-existence of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategic plan subsequently leading to no monitoring of the SP;
- inadequate consensus building of stakeholders and; inadequate dissemination of the SP among stakeholders leading to little utilization of the document.
In line with international standards, UNFPA in collaboration with USAID/MCSP supported the Ministry of Health to develop a new Nursing and Midwifery strategy in Ghana. The orientation expanded the scope of knowledge of the midwives on early childhood development strengthening service integration. The knowledge and skills in ECD would improve the quality of care and education midwives provide to their communities leading to realization of the right of every child to survive and thrive hence building a more sustainable future for all Ghanaians.

The completion of the new Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services framework (2019-2023) and its launch on 24 October 2018 by the Second Lady ensured high visibility and political commitment to its implementation. Over 70 senior Nurses, Midwives and managers participated in a national dissemination meeting of the SP. This will ensure the Strategic plan is known and used by the target groups.

ii. Orientation of Midwives on the nurturing care framework for Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The period from pregnancy to age 3 is the most critical, when the brain grows faster than at any other time. However, little effort has been made to equip Midwives with Early Childhood Development skills to provide...
high quality, culturally sensitive health education and services to all in the community in the various components of the nurturing care framework: on good health, adequate nutrition, responsive caregiving, security and safety, and opportunities for early learning.

To address this gap, UNFPA organized an orientation meeting so that midwives are fully equipped and conscious of their role in early childhood development. UNFPA in collaboration with the MCSP/USAID worked with the Ghana Registered Midwifery Association to orient 150 midwives on their role in ECD.

The orientation expanded the scope of knowledge of the midwives on early childhood development strengthening service integration. The knowledge and skills in ECD would improve the quality of care and education midwives provide to their communities leading to realization of the right of every child to survive and thrive hence building a more sustainable future for all Ghanaians.

### iii. Enhancing Quality Midwifery Education

Midwifery, which is a significant link to all programmes in reproductive health and safe motherhood, has been a major focus for UNFPA, with the implementation of activities which ensure that well-trained and highly-skilled midwives are churned from accredited midwifery institutions. In 2018, UNFPA equipped the skills laboratory of two midwifery training schools (Dabiesoaba Nursing and Midwifery Training Centre and Garden City University College).

UNFPA also supported a joint monitoring exercise with the Ministry of Health in three midwifery training schools. The exercise tracked the performances of these institutions in terms of quality of training, learning and teaching aids, skills laboratory equipment, among others. The capacity of midwifery tutors was also built for quality teaching through on-site coaching.

This resulted in a total of 24 midwifery training schools having been supported through on-site coaching, since its inception in 2014. Furthermore, with the donation of procured midwifery equipment to some training institutions, the number of midwifery schools supported by MHTF increased to 41 this year.

### iv. Celebration of the International Day of the Midwife

The 2018 national event to recognize and celebrate midwives around the world on the occasion of the International Day of the Midwife in Ghana was organized at the Jubilee Park in Kumasi under the theme “Midwives leading the Way with Quality Care". The objectives of the event was to inform the safe motherhood fraternity that midwives are crucial to promoting maternal, newborn and adolescent health, to celebrate the achievements of midwives and their contributions towards improving sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn health outcomes and to motivate policymakers to implement conducive workforce policies and an enabling environment for midwives to practice their profession in recognition of...
unique professional role that midwives play. The event was organized by the Ministry of Health and the Midwifery Associations in Ghana with support from UNFPA. The Deputy Minister of Health, Hon. Tina Mensah represented First Lady of the Republic Her Excellency Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo to launch the event. Over 500 people witnessed the event where 10 selected regional best midwives and four others from four Teaching Hospitals were recognized and awarded.
Improving access to family planning and contraceptives in Ghana.

Ghana committed at the London FP 2012 Summit, and re-affirmed in 2017 to reduce unmet need for family planning, as unmet need especially for adolescents 15-19 years remained at a high of 51% above national average of 30%. The 2017 Facility-Based Survey revealed that about 12% of service delivery points were stocked out in some family planning commodities, while others were over stocked.

Health services, especially contraceptive services for adolescents are largely unintegrated, of poor quality with inequity in access and utilization. Persons with disabilities are also faced with inequitable access to SRH/FP services. The country is saddled with inadequate number of trained health staff equipped with skills to deliver the full complement of family planning services, particularly Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC), including IUDs.

In 2018, UNFPA Ghana provided leadership in advocacy and convening national and regional level FP coordinating structures in collaboration with Ghana Health Service and other partners, to improve family planning uptake in Ghana.

The CO also engaged adolescents and youth-centered NGOs and CSOs, the private sector, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and from government to play leadership roles in the planning and execution of adolescent and youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) outreaches. A multi-sectoral integrated approach was adopted in the execution of family planning and adolescent SRHR activities in the year.

Photo: An expectant mother receiving Health care
Restoring the dignity of women and girls living with Obstetric Fistula

i. Celebrating the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (OF)

The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (May 23) was commemorated to draw attention to the victims and garner public support to reducing the occurrence. Key among the objectives of the 2018 celebration was to create awareness on OF, recognize the contributions of some dedicated surgeons involved in OF repair and unveil Mrs. Claudia Lomor as UNFPA Ghana Ambassador. A major highlight of the day was the launch of the “100 in 100 Initiative”, an initiative to mobilize local resources to support the repair of 100 women with OF in 100 days.

An award winning film “DRY” produced by the Nigerian actress Stephanie Linus was shown at the event and this moved a lot of the dignitaries to pledge their support for OF awareness creation and advocacy.

The dignitaries present at the event included Her Excellency Mrs. Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings (former First Lady of Ghana), and representatives of various embassies and high commissions.

In 2018, UNFPA Ghana provided leadership in advocacy and convening national and regional level FP coordinating structures in collaboration with Ghana Health Service and other partners, to improve family planning uptake in Ghana. The CO also engaged adolescents and youth-centered NGOs and CSOs, the private sector, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and from government to play leadership.
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ii. Expanding Fistula Care Services in Ghana

As mentioned earlier, for every woman who dies out of obstetric complications, as many as 30 other encounter complications with serious or long lasting complications.

In Ghana, as in many other developing countries, obstetric fistula is one of such complications. Per the Ghana Health Service Report on the burden of obstetric fistula burden in Ghana (2015), between 711 and 1,352 new cases of OF occur each year, amounting to an incidence rate of between 1.6 and 1.8 per 1,000 deliveries. However, less than 500 cases are repaired annually, leading to the build-up of old fistula cases. UNFPA-Ghana with funding from the Maternal Health Thematic Fund (MHTF), continued to support fistula programming.

The intervention areas as in previous years included advocacy, policy-dialogue, OF repairs and capacity building in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Department of Gender, the Regional Coordinating Councils and Municipal and District Assemblies. UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service and the National Task Force Team on Obstetric Fistula, launched the 100 in 100 Initiative on 23rd May, 2018 - The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, in Accra.
The objective was to repair 100 Obstetric Fistula cases in 100 days. Additionally, the initiative was to draw public attention to Obstetric Fistula and generate domestic resources to fund the mobilization, repairs and rehabilitation of women and girls with OF.

As a result of the initiative, there has been an increased awareness of OF by the general public, with wider exposure on social media and the establishment of documentaries and special media features, among others. This resulted in a greater domestic resource mobilization involving individuals, private sector and organizations donating and pledging their support to the Campaign to End Obstetric Fistula. An example being Access Bank and Kaysens Group donating money for the repair of 100 fistula clients. To boot, there has been a renewed commitment by the National Task Force Team on OF and partners in the fight to eradicate OF in Ghana.

Although 100 cases of OF were not repaired in 100 days, as was the objective of the Initiative, a total of 45 OF surgical repairs were conducted, which was an increment, in comparison to 17 repairs within the same period last year.

This below-expectation-result was due to challenges faced in the identification and mobilization of OF cases; which is earnestly being looked into for the planning and implementation of fistula programmes in 2019. In total, 70 recorded obstetric fistula surgical repairs have been conducted in 2018.

*Photo: Patients at the Fistula ward*
action in numbers

213 midwives trained in the use of safe delivery app.

350 young people women & men were reached directly with information on causes, treatment and management of pre-eclampsia women at the launch. Indirectly over 8000 people were reached through the live coverage of the programme on Easy FM 107.5 breakfast show. Over 3000 flyers developed on the condition was also distributed to corporate women.

3,200 + 2,050 dignity kits were distributed to affected victims of the over 52,000 people displaced by the floods in northern Ghana,
UNFPA funding repaired 45 fistula ‘clients’ while Access bank donated funds for the repair of 100 fistula ‘clients’ through Mercy Women’s hospital Mankessim.

Campaign to End Fistula

Over 70 senior nurses, midwives and managers participated in a national dissemination of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services framework.

Over 250 dignitaries were made aware of OF through the screening of the movie “DRY”

The CO supported the GHS to train health service providers (midwives & community health officers), FP training, in LARC methods, in line with the government’s task sharing policy, and on adolescent and youth friendly health services.

150 midwives were oriented on their role in ECD.

Over 300 people from NADMO representing different agencies were trained in MISP.
The family planning commodities provided through our support has the potential to achieve the following:

**Couple Year Protection (CYP (FP only) of**

870,250

Averting 714 maternal deaths

3,882 child deaths

117,306 unsafe abortions

[MSI Impact 2 (version 5 2018)]

The underlisted were also achieved through direct integrated outreach services:

- 33 Young People were reached with implants & three months injectable
- 48 persons underwent screening for sexually transmitted infections.
- 302 participants had their breasts examined
- 300 IUD insertions
- both male & female condoms were distributed.
CHAPTER TWO

Empowering Young People, especially Adolescent Girls
The second output of the 7th Ghana CPD is to ensure that “Young people, especially adolescent girls have skills and knowledge to claim and make informed choices about their SRHR and well-being, including in humanitarian settings”. Towards the achievement of this output, the CO invested time, energy and resources to empower young people including adolescent girls.

In consonance with the SDG principle of “Leaving No One Behind”, the CO targeted, young people, most especially adolescent girls who in most cases are the most vulnerable and designed programmes tailored to meet their needs and involve them as active participants. Adolescent girls account for 21.7 per cent of the female population and for about half of the 5.5 million adolescent population of Ghana. The period of adolescence, profoundly influences girls’ future potential and life outcomes. It is a time of key transitions: from girlhood to womanhood; from primary to secondary education; from education to work and family life.

Coupled with gender inequality and poverty, those transitions often expose girls to higher chance of school dropouts; child marriage; sexual and gender based violence, abuse and sexually transmitted infections; adolescent pregnancy, obstetric fistula and maternal mortality; anaemia and others.

Adolescent fertility in Ghana stands at 14.2%. Pregnancy and childbearing among adolescent school girls have emerged as important risk factors for their increased school dropout rates. Adolescent death contribution to maternal mortality also remains a challenge in Ghana, with adolescent girls (10-19 years) contributing to 7.75 per cent of maternal deaths. Among females 15-19 years, only 6.3% use a modern family planning method, showing a huge gap between knowledge and use of contraceptives.
Participants at the 2nd African Union Girls Summit

among adolescent girls; which generate repercussions that include unsafe abortions. Sexual and gender-based violence continue to persist with 38.2 per cent of adolescent girls aged 15-19 years reported to have experienced at least one act of sexual violence.

To combat these concerns, the underlisted interventions were initiated in 2018

**Empowering Adolescent Girls Through Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

The risks and vulnerabilities facing adolescent girls have been increasingly recognized in Ghana, resulting in prioritization of girls' issues by different government policies. A UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme, with funding support from the Canadian Government was initiated in August 2018 to complement the Government of Ghana's efforts at advancing the implementation of policies and strategies focusing on adolescent girls' health, education and well-being. The joint programme aims at scaling-up Ghana's policy response on adolescent girls through the roll-out of interventions that facilitate adolescent girls' access to gender-responsive comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception. The programme targets adolescent girls between 10 -19 years, in and out of school, married and unmarried as primary beneficiaries; and girls aged 20-24 years as secondary beneficiaries; with special focus on migrant girls (Kayayei), girls with disabilities and girls in humanitarian situations across 36 selected districts in 8 regions.
Under the Joint Programme, UNFPA employed a multi-sectoral approach with the government, CSOs, traditional authorities, faith based organizations, academia, the private sector and the media at the national and decentralized levels to:

a) create demand for rights and services,

b) supply quality gender-responsive ASRH services

c) facilitate an enabling environment for ASRH service delivery and gender equality.

These interventions were geared towards systemically empowering the girls to make informed choices on issues affecting them, exercise their agency on SRHR issues and gender equality, and access quality, gender-responsive SRH services.

Training of teachers, health workers, CSO professions and community members, including men and boys were key strategies to strengthen capacities of the education, health and community systems to provide gender-responsive comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception and post abortion care services to adolescent girls.

Policy makers at varied levels and key gatekeepers were engaged in consultations as a means to advocate for, and facilitate a paradigm shift for promoting investments in adolescent girls.

Law enforcement agencies, particularly police personnel were engaged in capacity building initiatives to enable the prevention and effective management of gender based violence and harmful traditional practices affecting adolescent girls. Mentoring, school clubs, safe spaces and social media activities served as entry points for empowering the adolescent girls and facilitating their meaningful participation in promoting girls' access to CSE and ASRH services.

The implementing partners included among others, the Ministry of Education, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights and the Offices of the First and Second Ladies of the Republic.
Awareness Creation On HIV Among Young People

HIV prevalence is on the rise in Ghana as a result of the de-emphasis of HIV in SRH programmes. The 2017 HIV surveillance report showed a rise in HIV incidence especially among young people. Currently there is a low HIV awareness as young people think it is no longer an issue. In 2017, the incidence rose from 1.1 in 2016 to 1.5 in 2017 among young people 15-24 years. This was the only age group recording a rise in the incidence of HIV infections. The CO embarked on a nationwide sensitization exercise to educate young people on the reality of HIV and the need for continuous preventive measures to avoid getting infected and to reach the 90-90-90 target. Information shared also included the need for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and available sources of information young people can access such as the You Must Know (YMK) application. The CO collaborated with UNAIDS and the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), with the regional programme staff of NACP providing region specific data on HIV and AIDS driving home the reality of the HIV and AIDS to the young people and the need for preventive measures. As a result of the sensitization drive, 500 young people were reached with HIV information and education specific to their area of habitation. The questions and answers sessions revealed that some young people were surprised HIV was still a problem and were encouraged to continue informing and educating their peers on the issue.
Empowering Persons with Disabilities

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) have for long been left out of the dialogue on SRH as programmes are often ignorant on their sexual and reproductive health needs. In the spirit of leaving no one behind,

it is expedient that their voices are heard and that they are given the opportunity to come out of their shells to reduce the stigmatization they often face from their communities and health service providers. Working in collaboration of the Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD), the CO in 2018 made a conscious effort to support the Participation of young persons with disabilities (PWDs) in SRH dialogues so that they could contribute to the discussions and their needs factored into decisions.

(above& below)Participants at the PWD Outreach
Youth Engagement for Advocacy and Enhanced Participation

Other interventions aimed at enhancing Youth Engagement for Advocacy and Participation were implemented in 2018. The first priority area of the UN Youth Strategy is “engagement, participation and advocacy – amplify the youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world”. The CO as a leader in youth empowerment identified key platforms for youth engagement. These included:

i. **Formation of Ghana UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth**

The UN in Ghana regards programming involving young people as a cross cutting issue. The CO recognized the need for better coordination of youth activities as a group to reduce duplication and foster collaboration of UN agencies on implementation of youth activities. The CO with consent of the UNCT convened the first meeting of the UN Inter-agency team on Youth. Through the formation of the group, member agencies have begun the process of realigning their agency activities in the area of youth to the UNSDP and the newly launched UN Youth Strategy. Ghana is one of the fast track countries for the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy and this will enable better coordination and reporting of results on youth. It will also strengthen the implementation of Delivering as One in Ghana.
ii. African Youth SDGs Summit
The CO recognizes the very important role that young people of today will play in the achievement of the SDGs. The CO supported the Youth Advocates, a youth led civil society organization to co-host the 2nd African Youth SDGs platform. This regional platform for young people and provided an opportunity for young people to meet and discuss progress towards SDGs implementation in Africa and how young people can strengthen their contributions to the process. Young people themselves in their dialogues towards the achievement of SDGs realized that there was a need to create a platform for this huge youth population across the African region to contribute to the dialogue and share experiences towards the successful implementation of Agenda 2030.

iii. International Youth Day
As has been the practice of the CO over the years, International Youth Day commemorated annually on August 12th is an important day to advocate on youth issues. The CO supported this year’s event under the theme “Safe spaces for Youth”.

iv. Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme
In order to strengthen the UN to be able to deliver with and for young people, the UN Youth Strategy advocates for the UN to support youth leaders across the organization and build staff awareness and capacity on youth related issues. In line with this, the CO initiated a Youth Leaders(YoLe) Fellowship programme. Using a rigorous selection process, the CO has selected 16 young people to participate for 1 year in the Fellowship programme.

Photo: The first cohort of the Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme
v. UN Youth Envoy’s multi-country visit to Africa

The UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake paid a day’s working visit to Ghana as part of her five country African tour. Her message was simple Put Young People First. She was advocating for Africa and Ghana to implement the AU Roadmap for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend as it is one of the key strategies to advance economic and social development.

She reached over 500 young people and 30 policy makers including the Minister of Youth and Sports Mr Isaac Asiamah and the High Commissioner of Canada in Ghana, Ms. Heather Cameron. In a town hall engagement, young people voiced their concerns and the challenges they face in realising their aspirations. A number of issues were raised, and in particular the lack of adequate investment to support youth social and entrepreneurial ventures. They also shared a series of policy issues and ideas that were developed by a collective of youth organisations that can serve as an alternative policy framework to address the issues raised. Issues discussed were Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Youth Participation, the Environment and Entrepreneurship. The young people called for continued youth engagement in delivering SRHR outcomes for young people as well as increased engagement in political processes, beyond supporting the electoral process for young people if the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is to be achieved.
The Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana has mentored 100 Muslim adolescent girls to develop leadership mind-sets that can change their lives and fulfil their potential and aspirations. It is hoped that the girls’ continued interaction with their mentors will influence their paradigms regarding career development and employable skills.

12,034 adolescent girls have completed training on two modules on CSE through girls’ networking activities and community demand-driven programmes led by Adolescent Health Champions.

The beneficiaries of these trainings are able to exercise their agency on SRH and gender-equality issues.

600 teachers from basic schools have improved knowledge and skills on integrating the National CSE Guidelines in teaching and learning in the classroom. The teachers are applying the national guidelines in-school adolescents in basic schools to empower them, particularly the girls to make informed decisions and choice.

49 CSO partners have increased capacities to apply the national CSE guidelines in enhancing the quality, content and mode of delivery of CSE at community levels. With these skills, the CSOs will enhance the quality, content and mode of delivery of CSE for adolescent girls, and thereby empower the girls with health and social assets.

63 school health clubs including schools with special needs are actively engaging in innovative approaches to promote gender-responsive CSE among adolescents. This in-school safe spaces model continues to promote the adolescents’ voices and agency on issues that affect them.
350 refugee girls adolescent through synergies and complementarities between UNFPA and UNHCR, have enhanced knowledge and skills on SRHR, SGBV prevention and human rights issues. Through this intervention, networks, referral points and mechanisms for addressing human rights, SRH and SGBV issues have been established.

150 FBO leaders have increased capacity to promote CSE in their respective areas of jurisdiction and communities. The commitments demonstrated by the FBO leaders serve as key milestones to creating enabling environments for gender equality, CSE and ASRH service delivery to adolescent girls.

over 1,250 young people were engaged during the commemoration of the International Youth day and had the opportunity to dialogue with key government, civil society and development partner stakeholders on various issues concerning safe spaces for youth including the need to advocate strongly for drug abuse particularly ‘tramadol’

269 adolescents voluntarily tested for HIV

150 of disabilities different categories persons with

Participated in various dialogues at the national level. This increased the discussion on the need to address the SRH needs of PWDs towards the realization of the demographic dividend.

The CO currently has a vibrant youth fellowship programme with the first set of 16 youth fellows who are having their capacities built in programme implementation. Their presence has increased staff awareness of the capabilities of young people.
CHAPTER THREE

A Coordinated Response to Protecting the Rights of Women & Girls and Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices
The third output of the 7th Ghana CPD, aims at a “Strengthened national capacity to advance gender equality; prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Harmful Practices (HPs); and promote women and girls’ empowerment, including in humanitarian settings”. In Ghana, women, particularly, adolescent girls are mostly vulnerable to SGBV and HPs of all forms, in spite of the plethora of policies and laws enacted to ensure their rights and safety.

According to the 2016 research on ‘Domestic Violence in Ghana: Incidence, Attitudes, Determinants and Consequences’, 27.7 per cent of women have 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, indicating that domestic violence in Ghana persists due to harmful social norms and stereotypes that hold women responsible for the violence they experience, according to the same survey. HPs also continue to persist in the name of culture and tradition despite moderate gains. For instance, according to the recently launched 2017/2018 Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), the prevalence of child marriage is now at 19 percent compared to 21 percent that was reported in the 2014 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS). However, the actual number of girls affected remain the same as 1 in 5 since the reduction in prevalence is not high enough to offset the figures due to the high population growth. In addition, girls and young women in Ghana continue to be inflicted with the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Ghana is among 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where FGM is still prevalent, despite efforts to put a complete stop to the practice. In the face of these indices, UNFPA during the 2018 implementation year supported both state agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the prevention and management of SGBV and HPs in Ghana, in addition to enhancing high level advocacy and visibility on SGBV issues. The support, as part of the Country Office’s (CO) effort in ending Violence against women and girls was at both the national and the sub-national levels with key state agencies being the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and its Units mainly the Department of Gender (DoG), Domestic Violence Secretariat (DV Secretariat) and Child Marriage Unit and the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service. The organization has also partnered with civil society organizations such as the Purim African Youth Development Platform (PAYDP), Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF-Ghana) and LAW A (Ghana Alumnae) Incorporated to implement activities aimed at empowering women and creating the enabling environment to achieve gender equality.

In 2018, a number of strategies were deployed, all aimed at enhancing the impact of programme implementation
Collaborations

i. Collaboration with the Office of the Second Lady to launch the Coalition of People Against SGBV and Harmful Practices (CoPASH)

One major intervention to advocate for improved coordinated response for survivors of SGBV was UNFPA’s collaboration with the Office of the Second Lady to launch the Coalition of People Against SGBV and Harmful Practices (CoPASH). CoPASH brought together all stakeholders, including state institutions, like the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), and its implementation arm, the Department of Gender (DOG); non state actors including NGOs/CSOs/FBOs and the media to ensure that services are harmonized and resources are mobilized for SGBV/HPs activity implementation. An advisory board has already been inaugurated to ensure that the strategic direction, especially, resource mobilization for improved service delivery by agencies already working to address SGBV/HPs is achieved. CoPASH supported the implementation of various activities in the course of the year. For instance, CoPASH is supporting DOVVSU in renewed efforts to raise funds to complete the One-Stop-Centre that will facilitate the provision of all needed services by the latter to survivors of SGBV.

ii. Collaboration with CSOs, Traditional Authorities and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs)

In 2019, UNFPA Ghana CO partnered with relevant
agencies such Purim African Youth Development Platform (PAYDP), Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF-Ghana), LAWA Ghana Alumnae Incorporated and the media to implement activities aimed at empowering women and creating the enabling environment to achieve gender equality, community sensitization, local level advocacy and integrated outreach services. This is aimed at reaching girls and young people with SRH information and services including contraceptives services.

**B Capacity Building**

A number of training activities were implemented aimed at building the capacities of partners and collaborators for effective programme delivery. Beneficiaries of the training programmes included DOVVSU, the media, some members of the Judiciary, CSO and FBOs.

**C Advocacy**

Advocacy activities to galvanize support for combating SGBV and HPs including, CM and for the creation of an enabling environment for gender equality were undertaken both at the national and sub-national levels. Duty bearers like the judiciary, Parliamentarians, traditional and religious leaders and parents were the key targets.

*Photo: Canadian High Commissioner, H.E Heather Cameron with participants at the 2018 National FBOs Conference*
Technical Support

The UNFPA Ghana CO provided technical support to a number of partners and collaborators in 2018. The 2nd AU Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (including the Youth Pre-Summit) hosted by the Government of Ghana in Accra is worth mentioning. The Ghana CO was part of the planning team and contributed immensely to the success of the programme. It also organized a number of side activities which attracted active engagement and participation of young people.

Achievements documented in implementing the above programme interventions include:

- The 5-Year Ghana Strategic Plan to address Adolescent Pregnancy (APS) has been finalized and launched. An institutional framework to assist the MoGCSP in tracking the implementation of the APS by stakeholders has been developed and validated.

- Through CoPASH, the Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana was a regular participant in a number of UNFPA organized activities in 2018. This brought about a high level of visibility to issues of gender equality, CM, SGBV and HPs.

- The SGBV Case Protocol and Codified Hand Book on laws used by DOVVSU for standardized case management was updated, in collaboration with the Local Government Service to disseminate the National Strategic Framework (NSF) on ending child marriage (NSF) to facilitate tracking of progress towards Agenda 2030.

- Prevention in the Central Region were linked to service providers following a needs assessment exercise. Safe Spaces have been established in Kumasi and Techiman to provide the marginalized girls with Safe Spaces

- An MoU has been signed with the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) are production from the KEDS centres are in accordance with standards and regulations their registration and certification. The Accra Technical University will periodically train the Kayayei for re-certification on periodic basis. Over the medium term, the trainees from the centres will be supported to form cooperative to benefit from support from the Ghana Cooperatives Association and other funding sources.
• The 2nd AU Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa (including the Youth Pre-Summit) was successfully hosted in Ghana. The Summit ended with a Communique that called on governments to invest more in ending child marriage.

• The Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show was rolled out by MOGCSP. Through the Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show, a platform has been created for dialogue on rights and responsibilities of adolescent girls on issues that predispose them to child marriage and adolescent pregnancies such as ASRH, SGBV/HPs and to advocate for comprehensive sexuality education, safe spaces and mentoring for girls was successfully rolled out by MOGCSP.
Achievements documented in implementing the above programme interventions include:

39 **Regional & Deputy Regional Coordinators of DOVVSU**
were trained on how to effectively collaborate with other stakeholders on synchronized response and management of SGBV.

100 **Mentees**
of the Annual Mentorship and Girls Empowerment Summit on Child Marriage, Adolescent Pregnancy and SGBV Prevention in the Central Region were linked to service providers following a needs assessment exercise.

23 **Member Advisory Board**
inaugurated for CoPASH to ensure that the strategic direction, especially resource mobilization for improved service delivery by agencies already working to address SGBV/HPs is achieved.

22 **Prosecutors**
were trained on how to effectively present SGBV cases in order to obtain favorable judgment.

200 **Traditional Leaders**
from sixteen Traditional Councils in the Central Region were supported to develop guidelines for addressing child marriage, SGBV and other harmful practices in tandem with national laws and policies.
Moslem Clerics from the northern and southern zones of Ghana were sensitized on ending child marriage using the UNFPA CM Advocacy Toolkit.

Kayayei Enterprise Development and SRH Centres (KEDS Centres) have been established in Kumasi and Techiman to provide the marginalized girls with Safe Spaces.

Girls aged 10-19 years were reached with SRH information and services including contraceptive services in 6 regions through advocacy and outreach sessions.

Duty Bearers made of members of the Judiciary, Parliament, CHRAJ, DOVVSU. Traditional and Religious leaders were oriented on their role in ending child marriage in Ghana.
CHAPTER FOUR

Data to Address Inequalities and Achieve SDGs
The fourth and final output of the Ghana CPD is to achieve “Improved national population data systems to map and address inequalities, advance achievement of the SDGs and the ICPD, and inform interventions in times of humanitarian crisis”. Despite an increase in generation of national statistical information on socioeconomic variables, there is a dearth of disaggregated data at the district level to address development gaps. More data gathering and analysis, including census and demographic health surveys, are needed to address disparities. Ghana requires an enhanced system of data management and coordination to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for evidence-based policy. The following were achieved in 2018.

i. **Ghana’s Steps Towards Harnessing the Demographic Dividend of its Youthful Population**

In response to Ghana’s population boom, and the increasing youthfulness of its population, the UNFPA Ghana CO supported the Ghana government in undertaking actions to harness the Demographic Dividend (DD). The government sensitized stakeholders with information that addresses issues pertaining to young people in order to reap the DD.

As a result of the CO’s advocacy and collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission and the Regional Institute of Population Studies (RIPS), actions to leverage the youthful population for development have been codified in the guidelines for planning and interventions by ministries, departments, agencies and the local government. This has led to the Ghanaian government’s adoption of the theme: “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”, and eventually the launch of the ‘National Strategic Roadmap for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend’ in Ghana.

ii. **Capacity Building on National Transfer Accounts Methodology**

The Country Office in partnership with the West and Central Regional Office (WCARO) of UNFPA trained 13 relevant stakeholders including the National Population Council, Ministry of Finance and the National Development Planning Commission. The training was conducted by KNUST, RIPS and CREFAT. An intermediate output, the draft country profile report, was produced by the technical staff from the participating agencies and would be used after validation and update, to inform implementation of programmes. The trained national experts in the application of the national transfer accounts methodology will enable Ghana to systematically track policy investments to effectively harness the demographic dividend. Further work in this regard is scheduled for 2019.
iii. AADPD+5 review meeting hosted by Ghana

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations to follow up on the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) by African governments. In collaboration with the Africa Union Commission (AUC) and the African Population Experts Committee and with the support of UNFPA, UNECA facilitated the Second Meeting of the African Population Experts Committee and a ministerial review on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) in Ghana.

The review was held to:

• Facilitate an in-depth review of the implementation of the AADPD based on its operational guide and monitoring and evaluation framework

• Discuss gaps, lessons learned and emerging issues identified during the course of implementation of AADPD

• Strengthen linkages between Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the 2030 global Sustainable Development Agenda.

• Provide an opportunity to elevate the profile of Africa and raise important issues related to population and development on the continent

• Develop key measures and conclusions that would feed into the UN Secretary-General’s report as well as recommendations for the AU Heads of State Summit in January 2019.

The meeting was held in three segments:

• CSO pre-conference meeting (30th September to 1st October 2018)

• Experts meeting (2nd to 3rd October 2018)

• Ministerial meeting (4th to 5th October 2018)
**CSO pre-conference meeting**

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Africa Coalition of CSOs for Population and Development (ACCPD) with support from UNFPA, engaged in a joint collaboration and brought together an array of CSO representatives to contribute to the assessment of progress on the AADPD before the ministerial and expert review meetings. An outcome statement was presented at the main meeting.

It focused on health with prioritization on adequate financial and universal access to comprehensive, quality and integrated health services including sexual and reproductive health services. It encouraged countries to dedicate 15% of GDP expenditure to health as per the Abuja Declaration and on the provisions for expenditure on reproductive, maternal, and child health. It also touched on dignity and equality requesting for review, amendment, harmonization and enforcement of laws and policies that address discriminatory practices and customs that have an impact on marginalized populations including women, girls, PWDs and elderly people, in accordance with the African Charter of Human and People’s Rights.

A total of 150 participants, including youth led organizations, PWDs, regional and extra-regional partners participated in the CSO pre-conference meeting.

**Experts meeting**

The Experts meeting accepted the draft Continental reports on the 5-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration which was modelled on the following pillars: Health, Data, Population Dynamics, Dignity and Equality, Governance, Place and Morbidity, Partnership and International Cooperation.

The Common African Position (CAP) on Population and Development re-emphasized on the call by a member state for Africa to speak with one voice on population issues. It agreed that CAP will be guided by existing population policies.

Agenda 2063 and the AADPD. The Experts meeting also agreed that the continental reports be reviewed to contain more examples of best practices that member states can benefit from. A strong recommendation from the expert meeting was for the report to include and place more emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for women and girls. Finally, it was agreed that member countries strengthen coordination mechanisms and make resources available for the development of comprehensive data as well as invest in departments of statistics.
**DED’s Working Visit on the margins of the AADPD+5 Review meeting**

UNFPA Deputy Executive Director Mr. Dereje Wordofa as part of the AADPD+5 Review meeting also paid a courtesy call on the President and the Vice President of the Republic, H.E. Nana Akufo Addo and H.E. Mahammod Bawumia, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Gender and Planning. He also had discussions with H.E. Samira Bawumia, the Wife of the Vice President and went on a field visit where he met hundreds of vulnerable head-porters popularly known in Ghana as ‘Kayaye’. The conference yielded very positive results, including the submission of 49 national reports by AU members, which formed the basis for a continental report that was submitted by the expert body and accepted by the Apex body of Ministers. It was also well attended with over 600 participants including HE Mrs. Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs AUC, The Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, the two UNFPA Regional Directors among other dignitaries.

*Photo: Dereje Wordofa, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director during his field visit to Agbogbloshie market, Accra*
CHAPTER FIVE

Special Initiatives and Innovations
i. Strategic Partnerships

Among the strategic partnerships cultivated in 2018 are:

a. Office of the First Lady (OFL) and the Rebecca Foundation (for maternal health). Besides partnership arrangement of maternal health, UNFPA is in partnership with the OFL in the implementation of the “Because I want to be” programme, which aims at ensuring that all teenage mothers have the opportunity to go back to school and at the same time defines strategies to retain those already in school to move up to tertiary educational level. The project is being implemented in 8 communities in the Greater Accra region. It was launched on 11th December 2018.

b. Office of the Second Lady (OSL) and the Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects. The partnership led to the creation and launch of the Coalition of People against SGBV and harmful practices (CoPASH)

c. The Office of the Chief Justice (for the Mentorship program targeting marginalized girls. The achievements of these partnerships led to the high profile political presence at most UNFPA organized events, with its attendant enhanced visibility for the CO. The presence of these high profile personalities also impacts the level of representation and participation of other invited dignitaries to events and quality of deliberations.

ii. South-South Cooperation between Ghana and China

- Establishing an integrated population and health information platform in Ghana

The goal of this initiative is to establish an integrated population and health information platform for the formulation of evidence-based Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programmes and improved maternal and child health in Ghana. This cooperation is between the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of China coordinated by the National Population Council and China Population and Development Research Center.

China’s support to Ghana in the establishment of an integrated population and health platform will serve to improve the country’s capabilities in population and health data collection and application of the collected high-quality disaggregated data, as well as undertake data analysis results to provide a strong basis for the evidence-based formulation of Ghana’s MCH programmes.

The integrated population and health information platform will support Ghana in collecting high-quality disaggregated MCH data, developing evidence-based MCH programmes, improving the accessibility and suitability of MCH services, and thereby improving the status of women and children in Ghana, in terms of health, economy, and gender equality. This will be it’s contribution SDG goals 1, 3 and 5 to end poverty in all its forms everywhere; to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; and to achieve gender equality.

The MoU that incorporates all that have to be done in this
cooperation has been signed and preparations are ongoing to ensure that activities take off as follows:


Photo: H.E. Rebecca Akufo Addo during the launch of the “Because I Want To Be” intervention
iii. High Level Advocacy Activities/International Conferences and Side Events

a. International Conferences
The Government of Ghana (GoG) hosted three international conferences on UNFPA mandate area issues where the CO played prominent roles in their planning and implementation. For instance, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+5) Review Conference. The conference was organized in Accra from September 30th to October 5th 2018. Among the UNFPA participants were the Deputy Executive Director (Programmes) and the Regional Directors from WCARO and ESARO. The CO organized outreaches to Jamestown and Agbogbloshie market to showcase its intervention in reaching out to marginalized girls. There were also courtesy calls to the President and the Vice President of Ghana, and to a number of Ministers of State by the DED. Other international conferences hosted in Ghana were the 2nd African Youth SDG Summit and the African Youth Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa in November 2018. For the entire duration of these conferences, UNFPA was highlighted by the media.

b. High Level Advocacy Activities
Among the high-level advocacy activities organized by the CO in 2018 were the celebration of International Days including the International Day of the Midwife, International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, International Women’s Day, to mention just a few. There was also the Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) Conference on RH, Sexuality Education and DD, the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and the FP 2020 event on the theme “Count Down to 2020: Ghana’s Journey.” These activities attracted high level participants, including Offices of the First and Second Ladies of the Republic, and participation by relevant stakeholders and the media. At all such forums, advocacy to improve the conditions for the vulnerable and marginalized were highlighted.
c. *Decentralized Approach to Programme Delivery and Coordination*

The CO in the implementation of the CP6, piloted the decentralized approach to programming where selected Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) and Municipal and District Assemblies (MDAs) were selected as implementing partners, in accordance with the Government’s Decentralization Programme. The MDAs by virtue of their location (Northern Ghana) were supported from the Tamale Decentralized Office (TDO), through technical support, periodic spot checks and joint monitoring with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD). The MDAs encouraged other Development Partners to adopt this decentralized approach to programming which resulted in Northern Ghana having poor access to emergency obstetric and newborn care services. As a result, there is a relatively high prevalence of obstetric fistula in northern Ghana. The TDO therefore is the fulcrum for the CO’s fistula program. The location of the TDO facilitates better targeting, enabling the Country Office to demonstrate that its programming and delivery is in line with the SDGs principles of “Leaving No One Behind” and “Reaching the most marginalized and vulnerable first”.

d. *UNFPA leads the Health Development Partners (HDP) group for the first time*

The forum of Health Development Partners (HDP) which includes government, bilateral and multilateral organizations and CSOs provides a platform for collaborating, coordinating and harmonizing donor input into sectoral functions and processes. It works through existing government systems and coordination structures including the Health Sector Working Group, Business meetings, Joint Monitoring visits, and the annual Health Summit. UNFPA led the forum for the first time from August 1, 2017 to August 21, 2018.

UNFPA took up sector leadership at a critical time when a number of development partners were exiting the sector. The CO worked to sustain the cohesiveness and unity of purpose already developed within the Development Partners group to fulfill its fundamental principle of coordinating and harmonizing donor input and support to the sector.

In response to this development, the UNFPA

- persuaded MoH to include an action point in the 2017 aide memoire for the MoH to draw a roadmap to transition from DP funding to sustainable domestic financing. Since 2017 Development Partners have brought new impetus into the roadmap development process. Notably UKAID has supported the analysis and mapping of donor and domestic financing for the Health Sector in Ghana and planning for the future. Gavi
portfolio planning in the sector in a bid to support the country's programmatic and financial sustainability. WHO supported the Cross Programmatic Efficiency Assessment for the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the goal of overcoming health system inefficiencies across selected programs including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, Expanded Program Immunization and Maternal Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health programs. The MoH has produced a draft road map for the transition.

- The CO took advantage of this visibility and convening power to engage the policy makers on areas of UNFPA's mandate including discussions on equity in distribution of human resources across regions. As a result, the MoH instituted a Human Resource Forum to deliberate on issues of human resource in the sector and design strategies to address them.
PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

UNFPA