



Demographic Dividend in West and Central Africa: 2017 Progress Report



UNFPA Regional Office for West and Central Africa
2017 Annual Report

Demographic Dividend in West and Central Africa: 2017 Progress Report

Acronyms

AU	African Union	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
AfriYAN	African Youth and Adolescent Network	NTA	National Transfer Account
AYSRH	Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health	QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	RAF	Rebranding Africa Forum
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape	RH	Reproductive Health
CO	Country Office	RIAP	Regional Intervention Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document	SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
CREFAT	Centre for Economics and Applied Finance Research	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	SDP	Service Delivery Point
CSAI	Chadian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
CSO	Civil Society Organization	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
CYP	Couple Years Protection	SWEDD	Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend
DD	Demographic Dividend	UEMOA/ WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	UN	United Nations
EmOC	Emergency Obstetric Care	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
FBOs	Faith-based Organizations	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
FP	Family Planning	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
FPA	African Parliament Forum	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GBC	Global Business Coalition	URI	United Religions Initiative
GBV	Gender-based Violence	WAHO	West African Health Organization
HHA	Harmonization of Health in Africa	WCA	West and Central Africa
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development	WCARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation	WHO	World Health Organization
MISP	Minimum Initiative Services Package		

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Message from the Regional Director



← Mabinque Ngom, Regional
Director, UNFPA West and Central
Africa Regional Office

As we begin 2018, we are delighted to have ended 2017 on a high note, confident that we helped make investment in young people the rallying call of the year. Our response to the call of the African Union to develop a roadmap on the demographic dividend has led to actions in the 55 member states, as well as by United Nations agencies, partners, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, and youth groups around the 2017 theme: "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth." We believe that this message is now beginning to sink in.

UNFPA WCARO is delighted to have championed advocacy efforts that led to African

leaders making young people their top priority in all their development, peace and security initiatives. Stakeholders and partners are increasingly keen to invest in family planning, health systems, education and job creation. National leaders of our region are vocal in their commitment to ensuring that their populations can enjoy the values of a democratic society; pillars that constitute the demographic dividend agenda.

Key actors across the continent got involved and engaged in discussions, activities, projects and programmes around the demographic dividend agenda. This helped us to further raise awareness and explore ways of enhancing our understanding of the concept of demographic dividend and what it means in operational terms.

Now, at the end of the year, it is important to reflect on the progress made and the challenges ahead. We must also decide how to consolidate discussions around the demographic dividend and its operationalization, in order to continue our work in transforming the lives of young people.

National leaders of our region are vocal in their commitment to ensuring that their populations can enjoy the values of a democratic society; pillars that constitute the demographic dividend agenda.

In a bid to widen understanding of this agenda, UNFPA WCARO multiplied its engagements in 2017. We co-organized and participated in various forums, including on the margins of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly, where African heads of state and governments discussed the implementation of the demographic dividend with the participation of the private sector and other world leaders.

Exchanges on private sector role and engagement took place not only in New York, but also in Brussels during the 4th Edition of the Rebranding Africa Forum. UNFPA collaborated with GBCHealth, Rebranding Africa and the World Bank to bring the voices and ideas of the private sector to the table.

The role of the private sector is critical in achieving Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, by harnessing the demographic dividend and inclusive growth through investment in education, health, empowerment and employment creation. Besides building capacity and mobilizing resources, the private sector offers important lessons that could boost service delivery, making our money work better and ensuring that we reach even those hardest-to-reach

beneficiaries by using cost-efficient means and effective strategies.

In 2017, we further strengthened our engagement and partnership with faith-based organizations and there was impressive turnout and participation in collaborative events across the region. Eminent religious leaders delivered some key messages, including emphasizing that the Islamic faith does accept family planning and that spacing and limiting births not only helps to prevent maternal and infant mortality, but also ensures the whole family's wellbeing.

The unwavering support of Muslim leaders has been an important boost to our mission to tackle population growth in our region, which is historically exceptionally high when compared to other regions of the world. If their words influence enough people, the stage will certainly be set for us to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Our eyes are on this goal and our determination is steadfast.

UNFPA WCARO also took steps to engage young people in an agenda that must be owned by them if it is to succeed. We strengthened

The private sector offers important lessons that could boost service delivery, making our money work better and ensuring that we reach even those hardest-to-reach beneficiaries by using cost-efficient means and effective strategies.

the network of youth organizations such as AfriYAN and facilitated their active involvement and full participation in a number of strategic events at national, regional and global levels. It is reassuring to us to witness the #PutYoung-PeopleFirst campaign gaining momentum to become a movement. These young people are demonstrating that they are already leaders and that their generation is determined to take its destiny into its own hands.

We are equally delighted to have seen in 2017 the birth of a network of journalists and communications specialists. The African Journalists and Communications Specialists network was launched in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and coincided nicely with our launch of a new branding strategy for UNFPA WCARO, which will see us revamping our communications to reach our hardest-to-reach beneficiaries and all our partners and supporters.

Our collaboration with the Centre for Economics and Applied Finance Research of the University of Thiès (CREFAT) allowed us to build strong capacity in West and Central African countries. Beneficiary countries are now not only drawing up their own country-specific demographic dividend profile but identifying the actions that must be taken to enable them

to achieve it. They are also setting up observatories to systematically monitor progress and challenges related to capturing the demographic dividend.

Given our key focus on ensuring implementation of the agenda at country and community levels, we developed the Demographic Dividend Programming Guide, to enable different units and stakeholders to work together while applying the same principles on the ground. The programming guide will be instrumental in assisting countries on the continent to ensure that relevant programming and operations are undertaken to successfully implement the African Union roadmap.

We would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate our vibrant partnership with the World Bank and the six countries under the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) initiative. The many success stories resulting from this initiative are exciting and encouraging. The achievements suggest the need to scale it up to cover all ten countries of the Sahel region.

As the demographic dividend agenda and programme initiatives gathered steam and built momentum, we were devastated by the death



↑ #PutYoungPeopleFirst – Leadership Conference on Demographic Dividend, led by UNFPA WCARO – Dakar, Senegal, March 2017

of the then Executive Director, Professor Babatunde Osotimehin. We at UNFPA WCARO and well-wishers from around the world joined his family to pay their last respects and to share moments of solidarity in Nigeria.

His untimely, sudden death has further strengthened our resolve to safeguard his legacy and consolidate our agenda. We are building on the changes we have already made, to ensure that these gains are irreversible, and

that the rights and dignity of women, girls and young people are protected and promoted so that they reach their full potential.

Our confidence in achieving these goals remains high following the appointment of Dr Natalia Kanem, a dynamic and visionary leader and former Deputy Executive Director to succeed Professor Babatunde as the Executive Director of UNFPA.

Mabingue Ngom

Regional Director
West and Central Africa Region

Operationalization of the demographic dividend agenda in West and Central Africa

A seven-point agenda adopted in Libreville, Gabon, in 2015, put the demographic dividend agenda as the central priority for UNFPA in the West and Central Africa (WCA) region. Regional and countries offices have since then made considerable progress in mainstreaming and consolidating this priority at the continental, regional and national development level.

The current status is the result of high-level advocacy with a variety of stakeholders including governments, the African Union (AU), parliamentarians, faith-based organizations (FBO), youth networks, and, more recently, the private sector, to bring about a coordinated effort.

As the lead agency for the youth and demographic dividend working group at the regional United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in WCA, UNFPA WCAO led the development of a theory of change in response to challenges faced by the Sahel countries. This theory of change provided a brief analysis of

the multidimensional causes of the Sahel crisis, combining insecurity, instability, growing social demand, climate change and environmental degradation, all underlined by weak governance systems and a lack of social cohesion.

The proposed theory of change mapped out a multisectoral and stratified response for the UN's medium and longer-term impact on the development of the region. This theory of change will now serve as a focus to guide the development of an updated UN response to the Sahel, together with an investment plan.

In addition, under the leadership of UNFPA WCAO, the regional UNDG working group has developed an operational guide to mainstream youth and demographic dividend in UN country teams programming for UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). This guide has been developed in line with the ongoing UN reforms to identify key areas for joint programmes to address



↑ A better understanding, change of perception and attitude are critical in informing progress of the demographic dividend in faith-based communities

the needs of young people as priority interventions in support of national priorities.

As nine countries prepare to roll out their country programmes in 2018, they will integrate priority areas relevant to the demographic dividend. Most of these countries have a high population growth and need key strategic interventions. These include access

and demand for contraceptives, particularly for adolescent girls living in the most difficult-to-reach areas, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), as well as women's economic empowerment.



← ↑ Over 1,200 Muslim Leaders in an unprecedented international symposium, in N'Djamena, Chad, to discuss issues related to Islam, demographic dividend and family wellbeing. Other delegates followed deliberations from two other separate halls at the conference venue

Private sector adds momentum to the demographic dividend agenda

In 2017, UNFPA stepped up its engagement with the private sector on the demographic dividend agenda. Two major events are highlighted here: i) a side event on the margins of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, where multinationals called for more local private sector involvement with governments; and ii) the fourth edition of the Rebranding Africa Forum (RAF) in Brussels, which emphasized the importance of innovation and human capital investment.

UNFPA WCARO, in collaboration with the World Bank and Global Business Coalition on Health (GBCHealth), held a high-level dialogue on: "Strengthening partnership with the private sector to accelerate the Demographic Dividend in Africa." The discussions, on the sidelines of the UNGA, centered around private sector-supported initiatives on women's empowerment and demographic dividend. Delegates explored opportunities of building a stronger alliance between the public and private sectors.

Private sector participants invited governments to fully engage and collaborate with local business partners across all sectors of the economy, to ensure sustainability of supplies of goods and service, given their understanding of the local context and supply chains.

The discussions ended with an agreement that governments and private sector actors should forge stronger collaborations so that both can take advantage of the benefits of partnership, at both the local and national level.

RAF took place in Brussels, in October, with the theme: "Issues and challenges of African financial systems facing the demographic dividend".

Organized in collaboration with Rebranding Africa, the World Bank, GBCHealth and the African Youth and Adolescent Network (AfriYAN), it mobilized private sector actors around the topic of demographic dividend in Africa.

Investing in human capital will determine whether or not Africa is able to acquire human capital that is commensurate with its desire for emergence



**Mabingue Ngom,
Regional Director
for UNFPA WCARO**

The forum was streamed live, allowing participants from at least 12 countries in WCA to participate in the discussions.

In his introductory address to participants, the Regional Director for UNFPA WCARO, Mabingue Ngom, underlined the concept that: "investing in human capital will determine whether or not Africa is able to acquire human capital that is commensurate with its desire for emergence."

The forum emphasized the need for innovation and investment in human capital.

It discussed investment in health systems which it agreed would make a significant contribution to sustainable human capital. The private sector was encouraged to invest in behaviour change education and awareness; to generate demand for commodities; train more health workers to improve the standard and quality of care; and advocate for the implementation of local and national policies related to health - especially in regards to sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

Participants also suggested the need for a monitoring mechanism to monitor, assess and ensure that commitments made on the demographic dividend are met. It was agreed that reporting should include clear qualitative and quantitative indicators on investment in youth.

Dr Natalia Kanem attended RAF 2017 as her first official event as the newly-appointed UNFPA Executive Director. She welcomed the opportunity to engage with the private sector and talked of the need to work jointly in partnership, including providing financial resources, to help young people meet their needs and to reach those furthest behind.

Dr Kanem also received the Rebranding Africa Award 2017 Empowering Women Award, which she dedicated to all African girls, wishing them the confidence that comes with education and having a family that nurtures them, to become resilient, independent and able to participate in decision making in public as well as in private life.



↑ UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed (extreme right) delegates at a July 2017 global family planning summit in London, co-hosted by UNFPA, UK DFID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with Family Planning 2020

→ Investing in education is one of four pillars of the AU roadmap on harnessing the demographic dividend



A transformational partnership with faith-based organizations

Partnership between UNFPA WCARO and FBOs reached new heights in 2017. Together, they carried out a number of initiatives to increase the population's understanding of the need to harness the demographic dividend and enhance family wellbeing. A number of engagements cemented the partnership which began in 2015.

In July, more than 1,200 Muslim leaders attended an international symposium on "Islam, Demographic Dividend and Family Wellbeing" organized in N'djamena, Chad, by the Government of the Republic of Chad and the Chadian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (CSAI), with the financial and technical support of UNFPA WCARO and the World Bank.

It followed UNFPA WCARO's promise to partner with religious leaders and FBOs on reproductive health (RH) and the demographic dividend.

UNFPA WCARO's regional director Mabinque Ngom said in 2015: "Religious leaders are key players to boosting the long-awaited change in the behaviour of individuals and communities for an effective and sustainable improvement in the use of reproductive health services."

The N'djamena symposium highlighted opportunities for joint innovation and knowledge generation in contexts that would otherwise be perceived as impracticable. Recommendations included the need to pursue sustained advocacy and institutionalize similar discussions across diverse groups of actors to allow a dynamic sharing of knowledge.

The Gambia followed the Chadian example and organized a similar international conference on Islam and family wellbeing in November. Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Ghana, Cameroon and many other countries are planning similar events.



Religious leaders are key players to boosting the long-awaited change in the behaviour of individuals and communities for an effective and sustainable improvement in the use of reproductive health services.

**Mabingue Ngom,
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- ↓ Muslim leaders in The Gambia welcomed their counterparts from other region at a consultation on Islam and family wellbeing, similar in character to the international symposium on Islam, demographic dividend and family wellbeing held in N'Djamena, Chad, in July 2017



- ↑ UNFPA WCARO Regional Director Mabingue Ngom engaged with the youths during a youth leadership conference in Dakar, Senegal in 2017

04

African First Ladies champion the demographic dividend agenda

Africa's First Ladies, as some of the most powerful women in the region, have a unique platform to support the transformation of lives, especially youth, adolescents girls and women.

They showed their commitment to the importance of harnessing the demographic dividend in July 2017 by holding a two-day session dedicated to the agenda, on the margins of the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

Under the auspices of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAF-LA), the First Ladies also pledged to champion adolescent girls' and women's empowerment through greater involvement in the UNFPA and World Bank-supported, Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) initiative.

"Sub-Saharan Africa is the only major region in the world to be lagging behind in the demographic transition," said the First Lady of Chad, Hinda Deby Itno.

The First Ladies of countries in the SWEDD initiative (Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), are already playing a leading advocacy role. They urged their fellow First Ladies to adopt the multi-sectoral and multi-national initiative, so as to further expand it within the Sahel and in other Africa sub-regions.

The session also called for deeper active engagement of other First Ladies through policy advocacy, implementation of on-the-ground projects, as well as by supporting the implementation of the regional social and behaviour change communication campaigns.

↓ At the launch of the Social and Behavioural Change Communication campaign, in October 2017, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, First Lady of Sierra Leone Sia Nyama Koroma signs a note of engagement as First Lady of Niger Dr Lalla Malika Issoufou Mahadou looks on from her right.





↑ Hosted by the First Lady of Cote d'Ivoire Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, some African First Ladies joined to launch the social and behavior change communication campaign of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Initiative



Africa's First Ladies, as some of the most powerful women in the region, have a unique platform to support the transformation of lives, especially youth, adolescents girls and women.

Social and behavioural change communication to empower women and girls

The strategic framework and implementation plan for regional and national Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) campaigns were validated in April 2017, in Bamako, Mali.

Religious leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth organizations and relevant ministries were among others who developed key messages and communication supports adapted to the different target audiences of the strategy. They mapped out and validated SBCC institutions and resource persons for the countries, and the national campaign launches took place on 11 July, on the sidelines of World Population Day.

The campaigns were promoted with grassroots rallies and awareness-raising caravans aimed at strengthening community-based knowledge, targeting adolescents and young people on the use of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and family planning (FP) services.

The aim was also to raise young girls' awareness about early marriage and adolescent pregnancy; to attract the support of local and national authorities; and to encourage the engagement of religious and traditional leaders in actions for the benefit of children, education of the girl child, promotion of reproductive health and the fight against child marriage.

High-level mobilization

The regional SBCC campaign was launched on 17 and 18 October in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, attended by nine First Ladies of ECOWAS and Sahel.

Co-chaired by the First Ladies of Côte d'Ivoire and Chad, the First Ladies of SWEDD member countries reiterated their strong commitment to promoting key actions to empower women, adolescent girls, and girls in their respective countries and in the Sahel region.



↑ Family planning lessons must take place in schools, if we are to catch them young

In a Joint Declaration of Commitment, they determined to:

- serve as models on issues related to the empowerment of women and girls;
- advocate for strong political commitment on gender issues;
- support the implementation of the SBCC at the national and regional levels;
- place the social and economic empowerment of women, adolescent girls and girls at the top of their agendas;

- promote health, education of the girl child, promote access to quality health services; and
- support the extension of the SWEDD initiative to other countries in the Sahel, and its replication in other subregions of the continent, such as the Chad Basin and the Mano River Union countries.

Other activities focused on sensitizing governments and parliamentarians; technical and financial partners; civil society, including religious leaders, youth and women; and the private sector, to strengthen their commitments to empowering women and adolescent girls.

↓ UNFPA Burkina Faso Representative, Dr. Edwige Adekambi Domingo, at the official launching ceremony of the SWEDD national Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) Campaign



Concrete actions remain essential and indispensable in accelerating the demographic transition.

Increased visibility

The SBCC included a media campaign to exploit the wide range of coverage available through radio, print and digital means. More than 40 journalists and influential bloggers were briefed, to give them a better understanding of the SWEDD regional initiative and to encourage them to play their own role in the campaign.

A strategic partnership with media agency RACECO has enabled the design, production and distribution of audio-visual content through outfits such as TV5 Monde, Ouest TV, as well as across social media networks.

The Regional Technical Secretariat helped build the capacity of media professionals in the region by organizing information sessions around the empowerment of women, girls and the demographic dividend.

Celebrities support the UNFPA mandate



→ Senegalese Artist, Coumba Gawlo, is among the artists supporting UNFPA mandate

Senegalese celebrity singers, Coumba Gawlo Seck and Baba Maal, joined UNFPA WCARO to help spread the message of the dangers of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy, harmful traditional practices such as FGM, and the necessity of girls' education and access to RH services.

They used their musical talent as an excellent channel to encourage social and behavioural change among people, especially young people. Their music helps young people realize the necessity of contributing to their society's development. They believe that girls should

not be forced into marriage; that they should be educated so they can become economically independent and effectively manage their households.

Artistes such as Coumba Gawlo and Baba Maal play a critical role in raising awareness of social issues and mobilizing support and resources through drama, music festivals and the arts.

Coumba Gawlo and Baba Maal will be joined by six other artists from the region in 2018 as part of the regional campaigns.

07

UNFPA's fight against early pregnancy continued



The Muskoka Fund supports a joint regional strategic framework on adolescent and youth health practices and services (AYSRH), responding to the urgent need to reduce early pregnancy through interventions such as comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and youth-friendly health services, in order to bring about sustainable behaviour change.

UNFPA leads on implementing this framework in eight countries in the region and in 2017 held a joint regional workshop to take stock of current rights and SRH and to share the latest global evidence.

The workshop was attended by members of ministries in charge of adolescent health and education in all eight countries, as well as na-

tional and regional representatives of all four UN agencies (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UN Women) involved in the framework.

UNFPA also supported the production and dissemination of the second season of the awareness-raising television soap opera 'C'est La Vie' which in 2016 had reached more than 20 million viewers in seven capital cities in the region.

The drama brings issues of early marriage, family planning and violence against women into people's homes and promotes discussion. This second season consisted of 36 new 26-minute long episodes which continued to cover UNFPA's mandates including AYSRHR, FGM, child marriage and GBV.



↑ Clinics set up at a local school in Agoe-Nyive in Togo

UNFPA WCARO promoted national ownership of 'C'est La Vie' in Chad, Mali and Niger by linking it to trainings and awareness-raising in communities.

In Togo, it was used with partners to:

- organize discussion groups on WhatsApp and put the series on the Internet (464,057 participants; 154,871 viewers; 3,824 likes; 297 shares; 74 comments);
- organize 40 discussion screenings (3 in schools; 4 in GBV centres; 10 with midwives; 23 with partners at community level);
- involve other independent partners.



36 new 26-minute long episodes which continued to cover UNFPA's mandates including AYSRHR, FGM, child marriage and GBV.

Supporting youth organizations to implement the African Union roadmap on demographic dividend

UNFPA WCARO supported AfriYAN WCA to produce and implement regional and national youth roadmaps in 2017.

With the support of a Ford Foundation grant, a Youth Leadership Conference on Demographic Dividend was held in March 2017 in Dakar, Senegal. During this conference, youth leaders developed youth roadmaps at regional and national levels, to accompany the implementation of the AU roadmap on the demographic dividend. UNFPA WCARO has also supported the implementation of selected activities of the youth roadmaps at regional level and national level in four countries in the region (Ghana, Guinea, Senegal and Nigeria) through the Ford Foundation grant.

In addition, UNFPA WCARO supported an

inter-generational dialogue and AfriYAN restructuring exercise in June 2017. The restructuring workshop brought together 46 AfriYAN youth members from all 23 countries in the region and led to the election of a new Executive Committee.

More than 200 young people from Senegal attended the workshop alongside a distinguished panel consisting of the UNFPA Regional Director, Mabingue Ngom; UNAIDS Regional Director, Djibril Diallo; President of the Youth Council of Senegal, M. Khadim Diop; and the AfriYAN Executive Secretary, Pape Arone Traore.

The panel discussion highlighted the central role that young people play in harnessing the demographic dividend. The exchange was



↑ Prof Alpha Conde of Guinea, then Chairperson of the African Union, launched the theme for 2017, “Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth.”

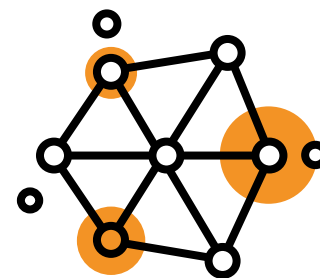
live-tweeted through an online campaign using the hashtag #PutYoungPeopleFirst, an advocacy campaign that calls on governments and stakeholders to recognize the critical importance of investments in youth and systematically calls for young people to be the centre of development processes.

They discussed the key challenges and opportunities related to the four pillars of the AU roadmap (employment, education, health and governance issues). Several key themes emerged including the need to address issues of young people in conflict contexts; stem migration; address the SRH and mental health of young people; and ensure that youth networks are strong so that young people can take a place at the table during high-level policy making and implementation.

↓ One of many youth delegates, of AfriYAN (Cape Verde) takes the floor to contribute to discussions on role of the youth and youth organizations in harnessing demographic dividend in youth.



Media professionals launch network on the demographic dividend agenda



African information and communication experts launched the Journalists and Communication Specialists Network for Health, Population and Development in December 2017, in Côte d'Ivoire.

The network aims to mobilize more people, amplify advocates' voices, convince relevant stakeholders and gain and sustain political commitment toward implementing the AU roadmap.

It was launched by UNFPA WCARO Regional Director Mabingue Ngom in recognition of his office's support and encouragement to the initiators of the network.

The network came about as a result of exchanges on the margins of the AU in January in Addis Ababa and in October at both the RAF in Brussels and the launch of the SBCC Campaign Strategy in Côte d'Ivoire.

The launch marked an achievement milestone for those dedicated to capturing the demographic dividend.

The network adopted an annual work plan, which will be implemented under the leadership of Alassane Cisse, of Senegalese Journalists, who was elected for a three-year term. UNFPA WCARO will support the network in implementing its activities.

The network aims to mobilize more people, amplify advocates' voices, convince relevant stakeholders and gain and sustain political commitment toward implementing the AU roadmap.

→ Mamadou Diatta, RAGECO Group cameraman, LTA holder for audio-visual production has been behind some of the imagines brought to the screen on Ouest-TV, Wari, TV5Monde Africa and others



← Alassane Cisse, journalist with Radiodiffusion Télévision Sénégalaise (RTS), feeds in on the role of media specialists in enhancing the demographic dividend agenda. He was subsequently elected President of the newly formed Journalists and Communication Specialists Network for Health, Population and Development in December 2017, in Côte d'Ivoire.

UNFPA WCARO was honoured to receive the prestigious Africa Peace Award from the United Religions Initiative (URI) for Africa. This award is in appreciation of its outstanding work in promoting the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health, dignity and equal opportunity.

The Regional Director of URI for Africa, H.E. Mussie Hailu, said the award was in acknowledgment of UNFPA's efforts in involving religious and traditional leaders and FBOs in Africa, and providing them with a platform to engage on population related issues. He said UNFPA systematically engaged these

stakeholders in addressing issues including FGM, child marriage and people living with HIV.

UNFPA WCARO was also commended for its role in chairing the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for Engaging FBOs for Sustainable Development.

Accepting the award on behalf of UNFPA WCARO, Mr. Mabingue Ngom expressed gratitude to URI-Africa for the recognition of UNFPA's work and for being a valuable partner.

This award is in appreciation of its outstanding work in promoting the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health, dignity and equal opportunity.



↓ Mabingue Ngom (R), UNFPA WCARO Regional Director received the award from Mussie Hailu (L), Regional Director of URI for Africa and Representative of URI at the African Union and UN Office for Africa



11

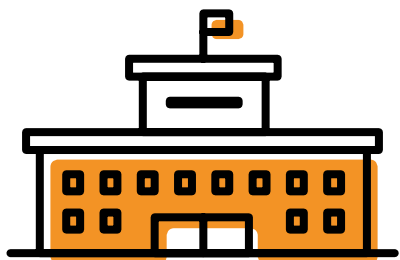
Investing in human resources for health, wellbeing and economic development

The 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa exposed the structural weaknesses of our health systems, the devastating consequences of inaction and underlined the chronic underinvestment in human resources for health. As a result investments in human resources for health must be part of the larger framework for strengthening health systems and making them more resilient.

To this end, UNFPA WCARO and its partners (WAHO, CAMES, SAGO, FASFAF, ICM and JHPIEGO) provided support to train and mentor nursing and midwifery students in 42 training institutions across the six SWEDD countries.

Investing in human resources for health can also create jobs for young people as well as providing them with health services. Once these practitioners are on the labour market, they will help provide young people with SRH services, including FP.

In addition to basic training, UNFPA WCARO and its partners recently selected two centres of excellence that will, by the end of 2019, have helped train 242 teachers to get a Masters degree in nursing and midwifery.



42

Training institutions

supported by UNFPA WCARO and its partners
to train and mentor nursing and midwifery
students across the six SWEDD countries.



Family planning, a key investment for capturing the demographic dividend

Choosing to have – or not to have – a child is a most basic human right. This right was reaffirmed at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which in principle 8, states: "Every couple and every individual has the fundamental right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information, education and means to do so."

Unfortunately, many women and girls in WCA still cannot exercise their right to FP, and often cannot plan the number or spacing of their children. This puts an economic burden on them, hurts their health and deprives them of better life opportunities for themselves and their families.

Statistics show that almost a quarter of women who are married or living in a union in WCA have unmet FP needs.

Obstacles in providing FP include the quality and availability of products and services, as

well as an individual's economic circumstances and social constraints. However in recent years, WCA countries have been intensifying their efforts to overcome these obstacles, particularly with our support.

UNFPA WCARO, through its regular and non-regular funding initiatives (UNFPA Supplies, Muskoka, SWEDD), is investing in RH commodity procurement and strengthening FP programmes based on human rights.

Its core interventions focus on five key activity areas, namely: (i) improving an enabling environment conducive to RH and FP; (ii) increasing demand for RH commodities and services; (iii) enhancing efficiency in RH commodity supply; (iv) improving access to quality FP and SRH services; and (v) building national capacities and systems through appropriate policies and functional and efficient logistical management systems, with an emphasis on the "last mile" principle of reaching the most needy communities.



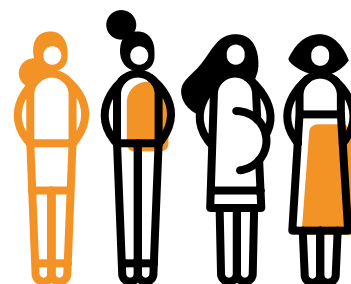
By investing in the region in 2017, UNFPA WCARO was able to, among other things:

- Conduct numerous capacity-building initiatives for actors (including service providers, supervisors, trainers, commodity managers, community-based health workers). A total of 1,672 service providers were trained in the third quarter (1,159 men and 513 women) at the country level. These training initiatives give service providers better skills to deliver quality RH and FP services to the community. They also increase the number of competent service providers and expand choices for contraception.
- Maintain support efforts to national bodies responsible for emergency relief and for crisis and disaster management. One of the peculiar features of the WCA region is its vulnerability to natural disasters, terrorism and the attendant humanitarian crises. The ten countries particularly hit by these crises (socio-political, terrorism, natural disasters) in 2017 were Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Mali, Chad, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and more recently Togo and Liberia where critical situations have been developing. Various actions have been taken. They include building capacity in different theme areas, providing RH kits to care for displaced women who are subject to GBV, and comprehensive RH services during emergencies.

24%

of women married

**or in relationships in WCA
have unmet planning needs**



- Strengthen strategic partnerships at both the regional and country levels. The Regional Director worked to strengthen partnerships at regional level and UNFPA now co-chairs the Harmonization of Health in Africa (HHA) coordinating body, and chairs the inter-agency technical committee coordinating the implementation of the French Muskoka Fund. WCARO also maintained excellent relations with other partners such as the Ouagadougou Partnership, the FP2020 Secretariat, SECON-AF, RHSC, JSI and PATH, who all work on FP and RH commodity security.
- Support additional country resource mobilization efforts to assist with their FP programmes, including national budget contributions to the procurement of contraceptive commodities. With sustained advocacy efforts with governments and parliamentarians, eight countries in the region have created budget lines for the procurement of contraceptive commodities.

These are Burkina Faso, Gambia, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Their expenditure for the procurement of contraceptives rose to USD 6,384,410 in 2017 from USD 4,821,137 in 2015 and USD 3,425,899 in 2016.

- Strengthen advocacy and policy dialogue. UNFPA WCARO organized a satellite event on "Family planning in the Sahel: an essential investment for capturing the demographic dividend and achieving peace, security and stability" on the margins of the July London Summit of Family Planning. It took a similar initiative during the November AU/European Union Summit, with a satellite event on "Youth and the Demographic Dividend: Organizing for the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Adolescents and Youths in Africa, a condition and pillar for sustainable development".



↑ Family planning, a key investment for capturing the demographic dividend

UNFPA's flagship programme, UNFPA Supplies, deserves special mention for its contribution. The programme's investments in the region for 2017 amounted to USD 43,416,667. This included USD 30,012,799 for the procurement of contraceptives and other RH commodities, and USD 13,003,868 for other programme activities aimed at strengthening supply chains.

Consolidating these gains in the new strategic plan and the 2018-2021 regional programme will sustainably speed up FP. It is clear that accelerating economic growth driven by the demographic dividend is possible for many

WCA countries. But this can only become a tangible reality if these countries continue to address the problem posed by the very young structure of their populations through FP, education and other investments that contribute to smaller and healthier families.

UNFPA responses to humanitarian crises in 2017

In its regional programme (2014-2017), UNFPA WCARO committed to strengthening regional and national capacities to provide SRH services in humanitarian settings and fragile contexts, especially in the Sahel.

In the course of 2017, UNFPA WCARO provided technical, operational and programmatic supports to country offices (COs) in the region, which has one of the most fragile humanitarian contexts in the world. In its regional programme (2014-2017), UNFPA WCARO committed to strengthening regional and national capacities to provide SRH services in humanitarian settings and fragile contexts, especially in the Sahel.

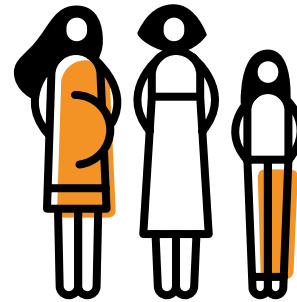
Its primary goals were to strengthen countries' capacity to implement the minimum initial service package (MISP); support COs to integrate resilience into country programmes and contingency, preparedness plans and their implementations; the development of a regional resilience strategy for the Sahel; support the

regional academic institutions to integrate a module on data collection in emergencies into their training curriculum; and contribute to document and disseminate good practices and success stories.

In 2017, WCARO provided support to all its 23 COs to enhance capacity, emergency preparedness and address emergency responses in humanitarian situations.

Seventeen out of these 23 countries were targeted because of humanitarian crises or high vulnerability. Seven countries were in an acute situation (Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria).

**The population targeted by UNFPA
WCARO through its health sector
(SRH) included**



About 31.2 million people were in humanitarian need in 2017, mostly in these seven acute crisis countries (93 per cent of people in need). There were 2.2 million people in need in the 10 other countries.

The total internally displaced persons was 9,766,388 and there were 1,210,599 refugees. In addition, 7,131,072 people were affected by drought or other natural disasters.

The population targeted by UNFPA WCARO through its health sector (SRH) included about 3.6 million women of reproductive age, 300,000 pregnant women and 4 million adolescents and youth (aged 10 to 24 years).

3.6 M

women of reproductive age

300,000

pregnant women

4 M

**adolescents and youth
(aged 10 to 24 years)**

1.7 M

people were provided with health services
supported from UNFPA WCARO in 2017



754,200

people with GBV services

The population targeted through the protection sector, specifically on GBV, included about 1.1 million women of reproductive age, 62,000 pregnant women and 425,700 adolescents and youth.

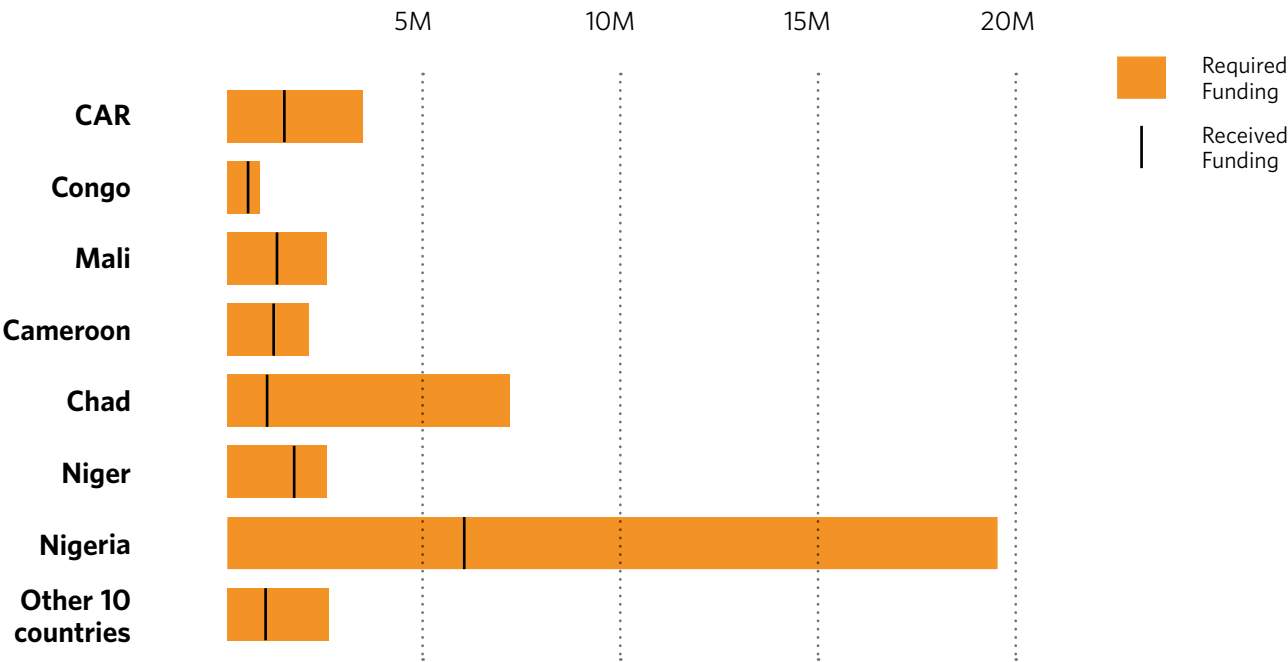
The expected financial resources for 2017 humanitarian actions in the region was USD 41.2 million. However only USD 14.7 million was mobilized, of which USD 6.5 million was funded by CERF and USD 1.5 million by the UNFPA emergency fund. The remaining funds were from other donors including Friends of UNFPA, Japan, the Korea Fund, Danish and UN Women.

UNFPA responses in the region

In 2017, support from UNFPA WCARO provided 1.7 million people with health services and 754,200 with GBV services. A total of 62,000 women received dignity kits and 1.7 million directly benefited from all types of emergency RH kits. About 92,835 pregnant women were assisted to deliver safely, while 674,200 young people or adolescents in the affected population received SRH services and 313,600 received FP services.

Service Delivery Points (SDPs) assisted 76,500 women and girls with GBV services including post-rape kits and 54,800 survivors of GBV received other services.

Humanitarian financing 2017



587,000 of the affected population were reached with GBV counselling and awareness information.

All these services were made possible through UNFPA's support for 113 safe spaces; the operationalization of 393 maternity health facilities, tents and homes; 260 mobile clinics; 639 functional health facilities that provide emergency obstetric care (EmOC); and 202 SDPs that provide clinical management of rape (CMR) services.

In terms of capacity development, 717 people were trained on MISP, 942 health personnel were trained on EmOC and 543 people on CMR. 1,842 youth facilitators, peers and

volunteers were trained on SRH and GBV, 713 service providers on GBV case management and 813 personnel on psycho-social support.

Half of the targeted countries (9 out of 17) now have a functional system for safe and ethical GBV incident data management such as GBV-IMS. This is due to UNFPA actively leading the GBV sub-cluster area of responsibility in the crisis countries (7 out of 7) but there is still not enough in non-crisis countries (4 out of 10). The presence of a GBV coordinator at the national level is essential for leading a sub group. In 7 of the 17 countries, UNFPA is leading the Inter-Agency Working Group on SRH.

CERF projects and budget utilization

Cameroon

N° CERF projects: 1



Mali

N° CERF projects: 2



CAR

N° CERF projects: 2



Niger

N° CERF projects: 2



Chad

N° CERF projects: 5



Nigeria

N° CERF projects: 3



Congo

N° CERF projects: 1



Budget utilization



↑ Youths in The Gambia
champion sex education
and family planning
amongst peers

Summary of humanitarian needs for 2018

Next year, UNFPA will be even more ambitious in its goal to reach people in need. The number of women of reproductive age targeted in 2018 will increase from 3,5 million in 2017 to 4.9 million. UNFPA will also target 745,700

pregnant women and about 3.6 million adolescents and young people. The estimated required funding defined by the COs is nearly USD 80 million for 2018 humanitarian needs.

Table 1 – *CERF projects and budget utilization*

Countries	Nb of CERF projects	Agreement amount USD	Budget utilization	% utilization
Cameroon	1	400,180	403,601	100%
CAR	2	1,845,525	837,159	57%
Chad	5	1,204,403	784,105	72%
Congo	1	185,451	185,081	100%
Mali	2	399,084	392,429	98%
Niger	2	1,000,453	986,926	99%
Nigeria	3	1,877,287	1,815,686	95%
Total	16	6,912,383	5,404,987	85%

Table 2 – *Financing and targeted population*

Country	Targeted women of reproductive age	Targeted pregnant women	Targeted adolescents and young people (10-24)	2018 required funding
CAR	601,642	12,514	222,607	4,750,000
Congo	19,283	3,850	21,725	1,100,000
Mali	1,368,205	324,051	N/A	4,650,289
Cameroon	40,000	6,400	30,000	5,232,500
Chad	140,800	18,830	92,700	9,942,000
Niger	186,645	16,870	261,634	6,795,000
Nigeria	2,153,298	258,397	2,747,608	44,315,660
Other 10 countries	386,250	106,756	232,438	2,851,175
Total for 17 countries	4,896,123	747,668	3,608,712	79,636,624

Knowledge management on demographic dividend

To date, 15 experts from Cameroon, 6 from the Republic of Congo and a further 156 national experts from 16 other countries have been trained in National Transfer Accounts (NTA). The NTA is an analytical method of looking at the economic impact of changes in population age structure, shedding light on Africa's youthful population and supporting evidence-based advocacy to improve the lives of adolescents and youth. Eighteen French and Portuguese-speaking countries from the region now have their demographic dividend profile. Also, at the regional level, UNFPA produced the WCARO, ECOWAS and WAEMU NTA reports.

- Report on economic dependence within ECOWAS and WCARO
- Report on youth and work market within ECOWAS and WCARO
- Report on the demographic dividend in ECOWAS and WCARO

- Report on gender disparities within ECOWAS and WCARO
- Report on Economic hub within ECOWAS and WCARO
- Report on Governance within ECOWAS and WCARO

Some countries (Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo) have integrated their demographic dividend profile into their national development plan and strategies. Ghana has gone further and integrated the demographic dividend strategic priority areas for the AU roadmap into its guidelines for sector and local government areas development plans.

UNFPA WCARO began partnerships with English research institutions by organizing training for trainers for seven experts from Ibadan-Nigeria, RIPS, and KNUST-Ghana universities. These seven experts will carry out

the NTA demographic dividend programming training for national experts of the remaining English-speaking countries (Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia).

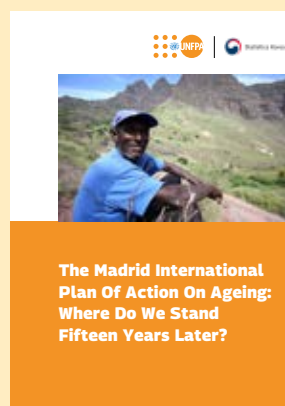
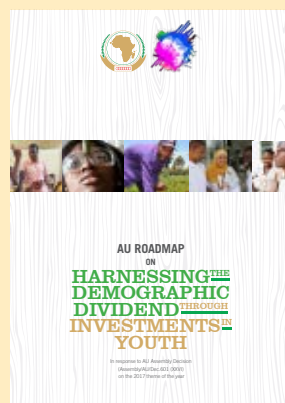
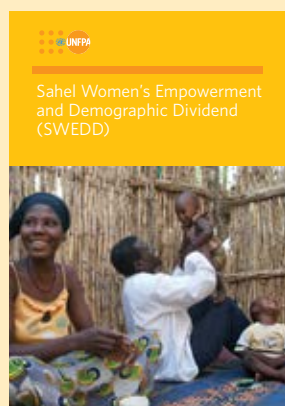
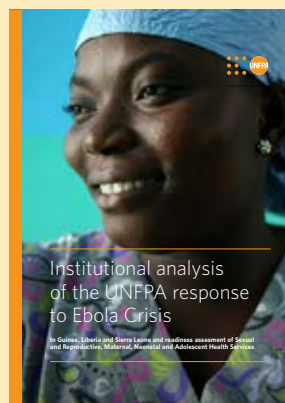
Partnership with the African Parliamentary Forum (FPA) has been consolidated by strengthening the parliamentary network on population and development capacity on demographic dividend and mainstreaming their field of action across the priorities areas (maternal health, GBV, child marriage and FGM) in the region. The FPA Executive Committee and the standing committees have produced two years of work plans based on the AU roadmap.



Five publications
on evidence-based
advocacy papers

5

1. Demographic dynamics;
2. The crisis of countries around Lake Chad and the crisis to development around Lake Chad: strategy for an integrated, holistic and sustainable response that supports the regional office to develop a theory of change to tackle the crisis in the Sahel region;
3. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: where do we stand fifteen years later? Experience and lessons from selected countries in WCA;
4. A draft leaflet with ICPD indicators for every 23 countries for advocacy and policy dialogue within countries; and
5. The Youth Development Index.



**UNPFA
WCARO 2017
Publications**

Tribute to the late Professor Babatunde Osotimehin



← Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin,
Fourth Executive Director of UNFPA:
1 January 2011 - 5 June 2017

The most enduring legacy of our former Executive Director, Professor Osotimehin, who died suddenly on 5 June 2017, was his championship of the demographic dividend, an idea centred on increasing the number of empowered citizens through population growth, investing in youth, eliminating child marriages, and ensuring that women and young people have access to all the facilities that can empower them to become productive citizens.

As a staunch advocate for women, he once said, "Women with choices and better reproductive health are better empowered to seek and keep better jobs and contribute more to their families, nations and global prosperity."

"Their families are better-off financially and their children receive better education, helping trigger a virtuous cycle that carries over into future generations. This produces demographic dividends and enhances global prosperity."

Professor Osotimehin left a flame that will permanently illuminate the path to future strategies to bring relief to the world's most vulnerable communities.



Women with choices and better reproductive health are better empowered to seek and keep better jobs and contribute more to their families, nations and global prosperity.

**Professor
Babatunde Osotimehin**

↑ UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem, flanked by former AU Commissioner for Human Resources and Technology (L) and former president Olusegun Obasanjo (R), joined others to give Prof Osotimehin a befitting burial



→ UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem, then Deputy Executive Director, extending gratitude to all UNFPA Staff who made it to the funeral of late Executive Director, Prof Babatunde Osotimehin

First official outing of newly appointed UNFPA Executive



← Dr Natalia Kanem was appointed Executive Director of UNFPA, on 3 October 2017, by Secretary-General António Guterres

UNFPA appointed a new Executive Director in October 2017, Dr Natalia Kanem. Her first official event was the Rebranding Africa Forum (RAF) 2017 where she expressed her commitment to working with the private sector to secure the demographic dividend agenda.

Dr Kanem reminded delegates that UNFPA was determined to work with the private sector to jointly decide how to bring partnership resources, including financial resources, together to help young people meet their needs and to reach those furthest behind.

She also received the Empowering Women Award from RAF, which she dedicated to African girls, wishing them the confidence that comes with education, from having a family that nurtures them and encouraging them to become resilient, independent and to participate in decision making in public and private life.

After her appointment, Dr Kanem presented UNFPA's new Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, to the Executive Board. This new plan, which was duly approved, highlights three cardinal transformative results that UNFPA aims to achieve. These are: zero preventable maternal deaths; zero unmet family planning needs; and an end to all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional practices such as FGM and child marriage.

- ↓ Dr Natalia Kanem addressed the 4th Rebranding Africa Forum on 6 October 2017, in Brussels, Belgium, in her first official outing as Executive Director of UNFPA



Highlights from Country Offices

These highlights from the COs reflect specific contributions to the demographic dividend agenda. More detailed achievements are contained in their respective annual reports.

CYP

Couple Year Protection: Estimated protection provided by Family Planning services during a one-year period, based upon the volume of all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge to clients during that period.

Averted unintended pregnancies

Estimate of the number of unintended pregnancies that might not happen because women are using family planning.

Abortions averted

Estimate of the number of abortions that might not have happened because women don't experience pregnancy.

Maternal deaths averted

Estimate of the number of maternal deaths that might not have happened because women don't experience an unintended pregnancy.

Unsafe abortions averted

Estimate of the number of unsafe abortions that might not have happened because women don't experience an unintended pregnancy, and therefore do not need to seek an unsafe abortion.

of new users of modern family planning methods

The number of persons who are currently using a contraceptive method, including those who are using contraceptives for the first time in their lives.

Signature indicators
in all WC A countries

14.7 M

Couple Year Protection

43,400

Child deaths averted

3.3 M

Averted unintended pregnancies

694,300

Unsafe abortion averted

13,800

Mathernal deaths averted

3,500

Fistula repairs

1 ● Benin

→	Couple Year Protection	858,000
→	Averted unintended pregnancies	80,500
→	Unsafe abortions averted	28,900
→	Fistula repairs	109



← Ganvié, So-Ava 27
Novembre 2016 - Ganvié,
commune de commune,
Benin. A curious young
boy looks under the entry
door of his house

A number of activities organized in 2017 helped to consolidate the gains made on the demographic dividend. In February, the UNFPA Country Representative briefed President Patrice Talon of Benin, on some results recorded following the implementation of the demographic dividend concept.

The CO organized a national workshop on the demographic dividend and agreed on its roadmap and also set up an observato-

ry on the demographic dividend. In addition, 77 mayors were trained on the demographic dividend agenda.

These followed a visit of the Regional Director who also held high-level meetings with the Head of State and government ministers to advocate on the demographic dividend agenda.

→	Couple Year Protection	1.6 M
→	Averted unintended pregnancies	206,500
→	Unsafe abortions averted	103,100
→	Child deaths averted	5,000
→	Unsafe abortion averted	74,300

The Burkina Faso CO’s strategic support to demographic dividend initiatives included innovative programmes, advocacy and technical assistance to government and non-government agencies.

Its innovative strategies led to the recruitment of 140,776 additional users of modern methods of contraception, while 145 associations of women producers in two rural areas were empowered to provide FP through 10 midwives commonly called ‘Ma Copine’. These midwives offered routine on-site FP counselling and services to group members.

In addition, advocacy efforts have led to the government’s decision to double its financial contribution to FP, from XOF 500 million

(2008) to XOF 1.3 billion (2018) in the national budget for contraceptives.

This remarkable result was the result of advocacy efforts with the wives of cabinet members and the First Lady to engage decision-makers in the fight against child marriage.

At the operational level, the CO supported more than 3,000 girls by providing them with safe spaces, where they gained life skills training and saved many from unwanted early marriage.

The CO also continued its strategic technical support for the successful implementation of the SWEDD initiative.



← Delegates attending the launch of the SWEDD Initiative Social and Behaviour Change Communication campaign in Burkina Faso

140,776

additional users of modern
methods of contraception

>3,000

girls supported

by providing them with safe spaces. These provided life skills training which contributed directly to saving many from unwanted early marriage.

→ Unsafe abortions averted 7,100

The demographic dividend as a window of opportunity and a promise of economic gain will only make sense if it is accompanied by the reforms and investments needed for quality education, better access to the labour market, better access to social goods and services, and more equality of opportunity for young people from all regions of the country.

Jorge Santos, Speaker of the National Assembly

In 2017, UNFPA Cabo Verde worked and supported the finalization of the country's demographic dividend profile and the promotion of the agenda at the national level. This resulted in its integration into the National Sustainable Development Plan.

In March, a training and advocacy session on the demographic dividend was organized for 70 Cape Verdean parliamentarians from all political parties. They were sensitized on the agenda and its importance for people-centered public policies focused on population dynamics. They also adopted the parliamen-

tarians' roadmap for the implementation of demographic dividend throughout their network.

At the opening of session, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Jorge Santos, said: "The demographic dividend as a window of opportunity and a promise of economic gain will only make sense if it is accompanied by the reforms and investments needed for quality education, better access to the labour market, better access to social goods and services, and more equality of opportunity for young people from all regions of the country."

4 ● Cameroon

→	Couple Year Protection	265,700
→	Averted unintended pregnancies	44,300
→	Unsafe abortions averted	145,600
→	Fistula repairs	171

UNFPA Cameroon addressed the need for youth engagement on the demographic dividend agenda by hosting a meeting for young people from youth associations and organizations, in Yaounde, Cameroon.

They shared information and gained knowledge on youth issues and strategies, such as

lobbying, networking and engaging development partners on the importance of investing in youth and bringing youth issues to the forefront. They discussed and agreed to monitor the roadmap in order to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

→	Child deaths averted	504
→	Unsafe abortions averted	6,600

The UNFPA Central African Republic CO engaged the government in the promotion of the demographic dividend agenda throughout 2017. A total of 334 stakeholders from the national economic council, ministries of economy, health, social affairs, media and youth, as well as lecturers and university

students were briefed on the demographic dividend through several workshops.

National stakeholders were trained on the NTA methodology and the national demographic dividend profile was developed.

→	Couple Year Protection	235,000
→	Averted unintended pregnancies	64,100
→	Fistula repairs	292

The forum saw young people commit to being dynamic actors of social change with regards to the demographic dividend in Africa

The UNFPA Chad CO supported the organization of two Pan-African events dedicated to the theme of "Harnessing the demographic dividend through Investing in Youth," in N'Djamena.

The first was the Pan-African Youth Forum from 29 June to 1 July. It brought together young people from almost all African countries and the diaspora, and was presided over by H.E. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic from Chad.

The forum saw young people commit to being dynamic actors of social change with regards to the demographic dividend in Africa, encouraging the empowerment of adolescents and young people, especially girls. They also pledged to fight against child marriage, early pregnancy, GBV, HIV/AIDS, FGM and other harmful practices.

The youths also committed to becoming entrepreneurs for development, innovation and creativity, contributing to growth and positive change in their respective countries. They equally endorsed encouraging entrepreneurship, especially in agriculture, culture and the green economy, and to create at least 200 youth start-ups in each country by 2018 through the African Fund for Youth Development.

The second event was a symposium on "Islam, the Demographic Dividend and Family Wellbeing". It was held from 25 to 27 July and brought together more than 1,200 Muslim leaders.



After successful advocacy from the UNFPA Congo CO, the Republic of Congo became the first African country to launch the AU's 2017 theme: "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend by Investing in Youth" in February under the auspice of the Prime Minister. Also attending was the Minister of Youth and Civic Action, and nine other sectoral ministers, paving the way for the AU roadmap in the country.

Hundreds of young people willing to learn more about youth empowerment attended the event and one of their representatives, Medina Zola delivered an inspirational speech. The Congolese national gymnastics team gave an energetic performance, illustrating the power of youth, and 30 Congolese coloured balloons symbolizing the rise of the Congolese youth were released into the sky.

The CO also supported the government and the AU to organize the international day of school feeding around the theme: "School feeding based on local products; invest in youth and children to harness the demographic dividend." The event provided a link between the demographic dividend and the AU's Agenda 2063. Representatives from seven AU member states were in attendance.

The main elements of the demographic dividend profile were discussed during a two-day workshop organized in September by UNFPA and the Ministry of Youth.

A training of national experts on NTA, supported by UNFPA Country and Regional Offices, was held in Saly, Senegal, and delivered by the CREFAT.

8 ● Côte d'Ivoire

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	131,100
→	Health care providers trained	443

The CO supported a high-level dialogue on the demographic dividend with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in July. Following the dialogue, the government renewed its commitments to reach 36 per cent of contraceptive prevalence by 2020 and create jobs for young people. In addition to the private sector and civil society, religious leaders and traditional leaders committed themselves to raising awareness of FP in 8,000 villages.

The CO also worked with the government to reduce the high levels of maternal and neonatal mortality in Côte d'Ivoire, by building the capacity of health providers, as well as boosting the equipment of health facilities, as part of the "Helping Mother and Baby Survive " campaign. This campaign teaches techniques that facilitate the prevention and effective management of immediate postpartum haemorrhages and cases of respiratory distress in newborns.

→	Child deaths averted	41
→	Health care providers trained	110

The demographic dividend featured highly in policy discussions during the 2017 elections in Equatorial Guinea, showing a clear political will towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

The CO carried out a number of demographic dividend-related activities, involving all stakeholders including key ministries, civil society, parliament, senate, youth networks, private sector and the UN system:

- *Demographic Dividend (Joint) Programming.* Policy priorities integrated into national and UN programming processes, involving civil society and private sector, during workshops in Ebibeyin (25-27 April) and Bata (18-21 May). A profile of demographic dividend indicators was developed.
- *Evidenced-based advocacy and policy dialogue through meetings with:* (i) the Prime Minister, (ii) ministers (Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Health and Social Welfare; Social Affairs and Gender Equality; Economy, Planning and Public Investment; Information, Press and Radio; Sports and Youth); (iii) the parliament; and (iv) the private sector (Noble Energy).

- *Capacity development and strengthening (in-house, national, institutional) and sensitization on demographic dividend through presentations and conference debates on related thematic areas:* UNCT retreat in May; participation of parliamentarians and senate members in regional meetings; exposure of young people to international and regional conferences; participation in radio and TV programmes and debates (6); Women's International Day (8 March); World Population Day (11 July); Meeting on Social Protection System (October); International Day for a Girl Child (11 October).
- *Media and visibility of demographic dividend-related interventions of the UNFPA-Noble Energy project:* Long term agreement with local private television channel for coverage and broadcasting; Continuous FP information and education campaign on two national radio stations in Spanish and two local languages (Fang and Bubi).

The official launch of the AU demographic dividend roadmap is planned for March 2018.

→ **Averted unintended pregnancies** **1,600**

In 2017, UNFPA Gabon supported the development of Gabon's demographic dividend profile by the CREFAT. A national demographic dividend profile was officially launched on 13 September by the Minister of Economy, Projection and Planning of Sustainable Development and other senior government figures.

The CO has encouraged ongoing conversation among development partners on how

best to use the demographic dividend profile in the AU roadmap.

At the sub-regional level, consultations are ongoing with UNFPA Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea on opportunities to extend the SWEDD project to Central African countries as an innovative way to address the current financial austerity.

→	Unsafe abortions averted	13,900
→	Health care providers trained	461

UNFPA Gambia organized an International Consultation on Islam, Family Wellbeing and Traditional Practices, in November in Banjul. It was led by eminent Islamic scholars and was attended by more than 600 delegates including religious leaders from Gambia and across Sahel Countries.

They, discussed and shared ideas on Islamic views on family planning, GBV, FGM and child marriage.

The Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia H.E. Aja Fatoumatta Jallow-Tambajang and the UNFPA WCARO Regional Director Mabingue Ngom also attended a high-level interactive panel on investing in girls and young people in November.

They discussed maternal health, women's and girls' empowerment, traditional practices such as FGM and child marriage, the

emerging trend of youth migration and the potentials for radicalization, as well as the role of religious leaders as key actors for change.

A key conclusion was to ensure a brighter future for Gambian youth by engaging them in strategies and programmes. A declaration was made highlighting the need for empowerment of in- and out-of- school adolescents for sustainable livelihood and ensuring their active involvement and participation in the socio-cultural and economic development of The Gambia.

The declaration also challenged the Government of The Gambia to commit to implementing the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts 2013 and Women's Act 2010, Children's Act 2005 as amended, prohibiting and criminalizing FGM and child marriage respectively.



↑ Renowned Islamic scholars at the UNFPA supported International Consultation on Islam, Family well being and Traditional Practices in Banjul, The Gambia

A declaration was made highlighting the need for empowerment of in- and out-of- school adolescents for sustainable livelihood and ensuring their active involvement and participation in the socio-cultural and economic development of The Gambia.

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	1.6 M
→	Maternal deaths averted	6,400
→	Fistula repairs	100

The President of the Republic of Ghana launched the AU roadmap for harnessing the demographic dividend and a national strategic roadmap in December 2017. The launch followed a meeting between President Akufo-Addo, and the Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr Natalia Kanem, when they met in September during the UNGA.

The launch was held under the theme: “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend

through Investments in Youth” and hashtag: #PutYoungPeopleFirst in collaboration with UNFPA WCARO , the Ghana CO and the Resident Coordinator’s Office.

President Akufo Addo and the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Christine Evans- Klock unveiled the AU roadmap and launched the Ghana strategic roadmap.

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	96,700
→	Unsafe abortions averted	34,700
→	Fistula repairs	144

The launch of the 2017 AU roadmap took place in Conakry in April. Over 1,000 youth from six countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Niger, Benin and Togo) attended the launch, which was chaired by President Alpha Conde of Guinea, then AU chairperson, who reaffirmed the urgency of strategically placing investments in youth at the centre of harnessing the demographic dividend.

The Guinean authorities commended UNFPA for its exceptional leadership on the agenda. In order to boost investments in youth, UNFPA helped create five youth-friendly SRH centres to improve young people's access to SRH information and services.

More than 10,000 youth and adolescents benefited from these centres in 2017.



The CO prepared a country profile report on demographic dividend which was widely disseminated among the Guinea-Bissau Government, including a special 30-minute presentation to the Council of Ministers by the UNFPA representative to Guinea Bissau, Kourtoum Nacro.

CREFAT provided technical support and helped in the drafting of a national roadmap

on demographic dividend, in line with that of the AU. Also, 20 technicians from different sectors were trained in NTA methodology to facilitate implementation of the roadmap.

The CO intends to create a national multi-sectoral committee and an observatory on the demographic dividend, as well Conduct sector surveys to improve data collection.



Unsafe abortions averted

127,900

UNFPA Liberia spent the year educating and mentoring the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), a consortium of youth groups in the country, in order to fully empower and involve young people in achieving the demographic dividend agenda.

In the run-up to the presidential and parliamentary elections, the CO supported FLY in drafting the innovative “National Youth Manifesto: A Promise to Liberian Youth ahead of 2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections and Beyond”.

The document, with extensive consultations and buy-in from the 15 sub-political divisions of Liberia, rallied all political parties regis-

tered for the elections to include in their platforms seven pillars on youth priorities.

These included education, quality health for all, employment and empowerment, youth and agriculture, meaningful participation, youth with special needs, and peace, reconciliation and justice. This document complements the National Youth Policy Action Plan and National Youth Act of 2013.

At a colourful ceremony witnessed by both the UN Resident Coordinator and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Liberia, 17 political party heads and their respective youth chairpersons signed this manifesto.

→	Child deaths averted	1,700
→	Unsafe abortions averted	20,600
→	Fistula repairs	178

the government organize a high-level advocacy session for massive investment in the fight against child marriage and the promotion of FP among adolescent girls and young couples.

In 2017, the Mali CO supported the non-governmental organization (NGO) AGIR and other partners to create centres for the empowerment of urban adolescent girls and girls out of school. These centres offer girls new information technology trainings. They learn computer maintenance and networking as well as RH life skills and social participation. These trainings provide them economic opportunities that help keep them away from early marriage, unwanted pregnancies and GBV .

The CO also helped the government organize a high-level advocacy session for massive investment in the fight against child marriage and the promotion of FP among adolescent girls and young couples. The high-level event was chaired by the First Lady of Mali, Mrs. Keita Aminata Maiga, and was attended by Princess Mary of Denmark and Denmark's minister for development cooperation.

→ **Health care providers trained**

148

As a result of high-level advocacy by UNFPA, the demographic dividend became a frame of reference for all national policies.

Gender-based violence affects 68 per cent of women in Mauritania. In 2017, UNFPA Mauritania initiated training sessions and exchanges with countries facing the same realities, to give actors stronger capabilities to address this issue .

With the support of the Regional Office, a regional capacity building workshop was organized for 75 participants from the six SWEDD project countries, for state and civil society actors (organizations of religious leaders, traditional leaders, youth and women). They developed skills to enable them to better understand socialization processes and identify strategies for deconstructing sexist behaviour patterns that may contribute to GBV.

The CO, in collaboration with the Regional Office, organized a workshop on an essential services package for women and girls subject to GBV.

Significant results were achieved in preventing and combating FGM. According to a rapid survey conducted in November, a majority of respondents (66 per cent) said they were ready to adopt the new social norm of keeping girls intact.

As a result of high-level advocacy by UNFPA, the demographic dividend became a frame of reference for all national policies and has been incorporated into the new National Population Policy.

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	99,200
→	Health care providers	1,100

The UNFPA Niger CO supported the launch of the AU roadmap including various advocacy activities and sensitization and social mobilization. It also provided technical support to the Government of Niger towards the integration of the demographic dividend into the new 2017-2021 Economic and Social Development Plan encompassing social development and demographic transition as one of its key axes.

The CO also supported the creation of a national observatory on the demographic dividend, which is gradually being operationalized, and provided strategic support to setting up the steering committee for the integration

of adolescent girls' rights and RH into policies and programmes to reduce population growth and development.

UNFPA provided financial support towards the training of 42,000 adolescents in SRH, including contraception, as a contribution to the Niger-Ilimin Adolescent Initiative, which aims to reduce early marriages and pregnancies in order to help control population growth. These youth were also introduced to apprenticeships in trades and other income-generating activities.

19 ● Nigeria

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	576,000
→	Maternal deaths averted	2,730
→	Child deaths averted	18,200
→	Fistula repairs	842
→	Health care providers trained	1,800

The UNFPA Nigeria CO partnered with the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria, the National Population Commission and Population Council to develop the Nigeria roadmap on harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth. The Acting President launched the roadmap at a national summit in July, with key stakeholders from government, NGOs, international NGOs (INGOs) and other UN agencies.

The CO also worked with the University of Ibadan to build the capacity of a national technical team to measure the national demographic dividend through the NTA methodology, which led to the development of the demographic dividend national profile and four policy briefs.

At the state level, it supported six states (Lagos, Kaduna, Kebbi, Sokoto, Cross River, Ebonyi and Imo) to mainstream demographic dividend in policies and programme implementation.

Successes included Kaduna state government launching findings on the state’s potential to reap the demographic dividend, encouraging key ministries to incorporate the demographic dividend in planning and programme implementation; and Lagos state developing and using a policy brief titled: “Demographic dividends in Lagos state: the opportunity we cannot afford to forego”, at a high-level sensitization seminar.

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	4,000
→	Unsafe abortions averted	1,300

6

health facilities

were renovated and equipped by UNFPA, which also supported the training of 30 professional birth attendants.

UNFPA Sao Tome supported the training of country experts on NTA which provided the basis for the development of the country's demographic dividend profile in 2017. This was used to draft the roadmap to launch the demographic dividend agenda at national level. The profile also supported youth-centred information communication sessions in the country.

A demographic dividend database was also created to provide readily available, updated socio-demographic data to decision makers.

The CO also partnered with the Government of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Union to improve the quality of obstetrical and neonatal care in the country.

Through this partnership, six health facilities were renovated and equipped by UNFPA, which also supported the training of 30 professional birth attendants.

It is hoped the facilities and staff will support the decline of maternal and newborn deaths and support the empowerment of women.

Finally, in collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), a partnership with youth associations was created. Mass media and community activities contributed to reaching 3,144 new beneficiaries of FP methods.



Averted unintended pregnancies 97,900

Having achieved government approval for the capture of the demographic dividend in Senegal in June 2016, the Senegal CO spent 2017 making multisectoral action plans. The CO supported the government in creating action plans for ministerial departments in charge of health, youth, employment, vocational training, crafts, entrepreneurship and women.

The CO continued its advocacy with technical and financial partners (including the UN system and bilaterals) and strengthened the partnership with civil society, for better understanding and ownership of the demographic dividend concept. Collaboration with the platform of non-state actors enabled the mobilization of more than 2,000 leaders of CSOs, trade unions and private sector experts in all fields in 14 regions.

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	63,000
→	Maternal deaths averted	463
→	Unsafe abortions averted	22,700
→	Fistula repairs	118
→	Health care providers trained	2,008

The Sierra Leone CO supported the Government of Sierra Leone in 2017 in engaging youth in the planning and implementation of development strategies related to the demographic dividend.

President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone used the demographic dividend to launch National Youth Week, in the presence of government representatives, diplomats, youth, media representatives and members of the public.

The launch provided the Government of Sierra Leone with an opportunity to reaffirm its

commitments to empower youth through the development of a roadmap consisting of the four pillars of employment, youth empowerment, education and health.

It was also a platform for UNFPA and development partners to advocate for improved engagement with young people, regardless of gender, religion, demographic and differing abilities, to empower them to realize their full potential and contribute significantly to society.

→	Averted unintended pregnancies	29,700
→	Child deaths averted	446
→	Unsafe abortions averted	10,600

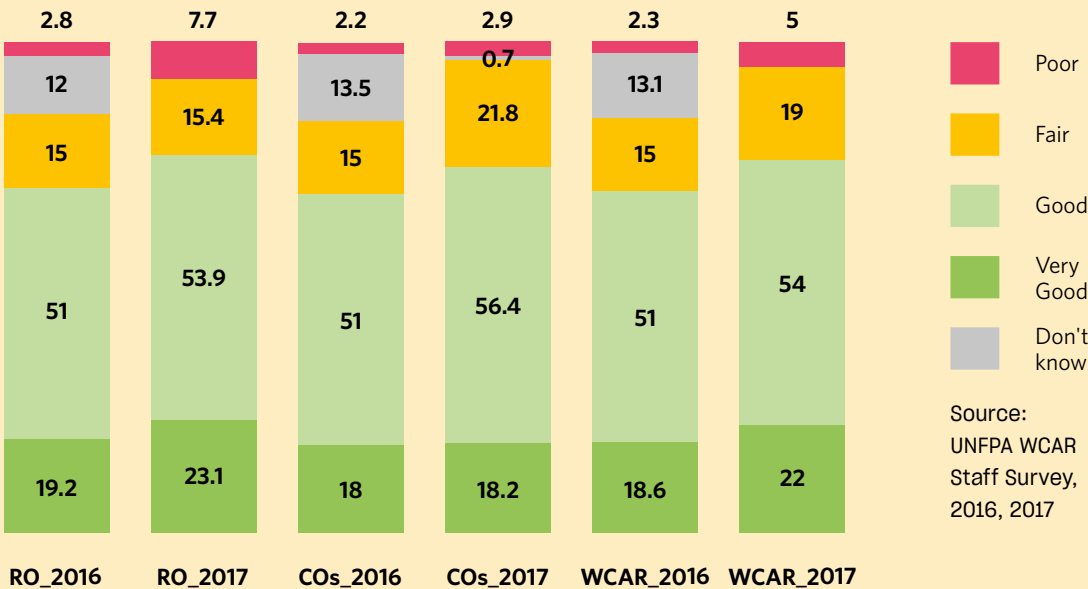
UNFPA supported the launch of Togo’s AU roadmap” in June. Partners welcomed the national ownership of the roadmap and the concrete actions that are already being taken, including the integration of the demographic dividend into the National Development Plan, the conduct of the demographic dividend profile analysis, as well as the issuance of technical guidance notes.

To celebrate International Youth Day in August, young people and associations were given material and equipment to help their professional development at an event attended by the government and UNFPA. These included carpenters, seamstresses, hair stylists, mason and iron workers.

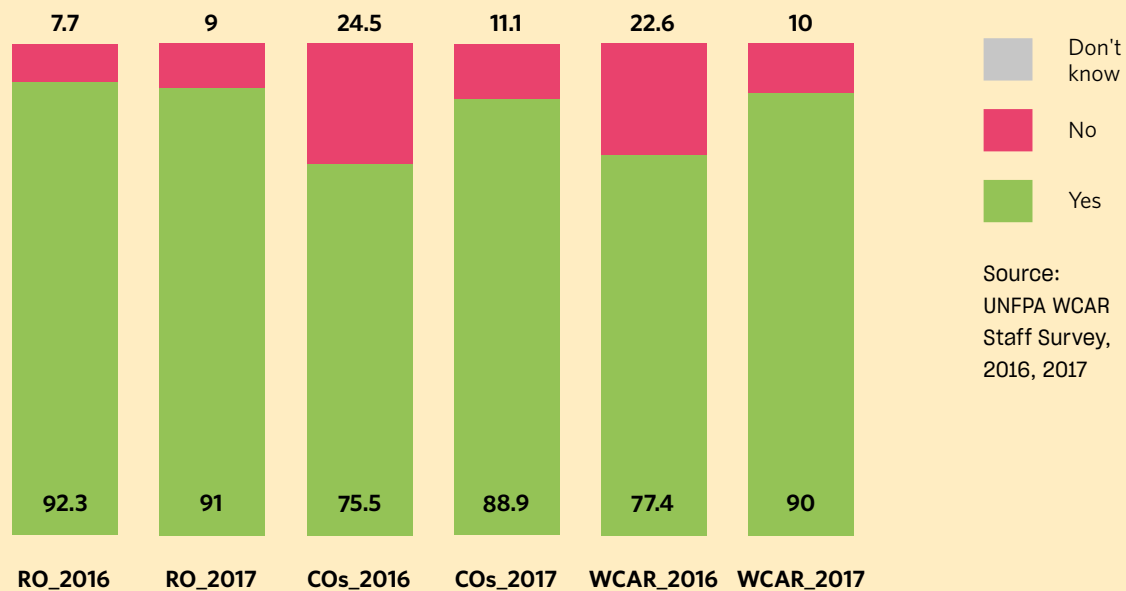
Toward the end of 2017, a staff survey was conducted in the region to assess work environment, their evolution image of the region and to assess the recommendations of the 2016 Regional Management Team (RMT) meeting, related to the demographic dividend.

In general, the results were satisfactory and the perception of the region continues to improve. The working environment in the region is overall healthy. There is good collaboration between the units and between the regional and country offices (COs). Mechanisms exist to facilitate teamwork.

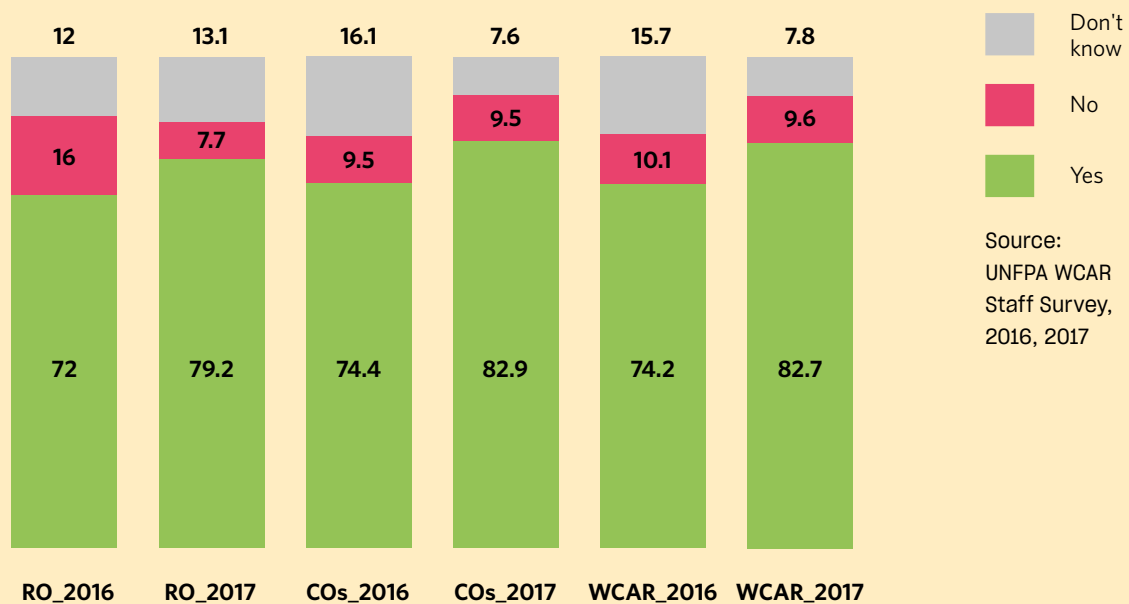
Collaboration between the units of your office



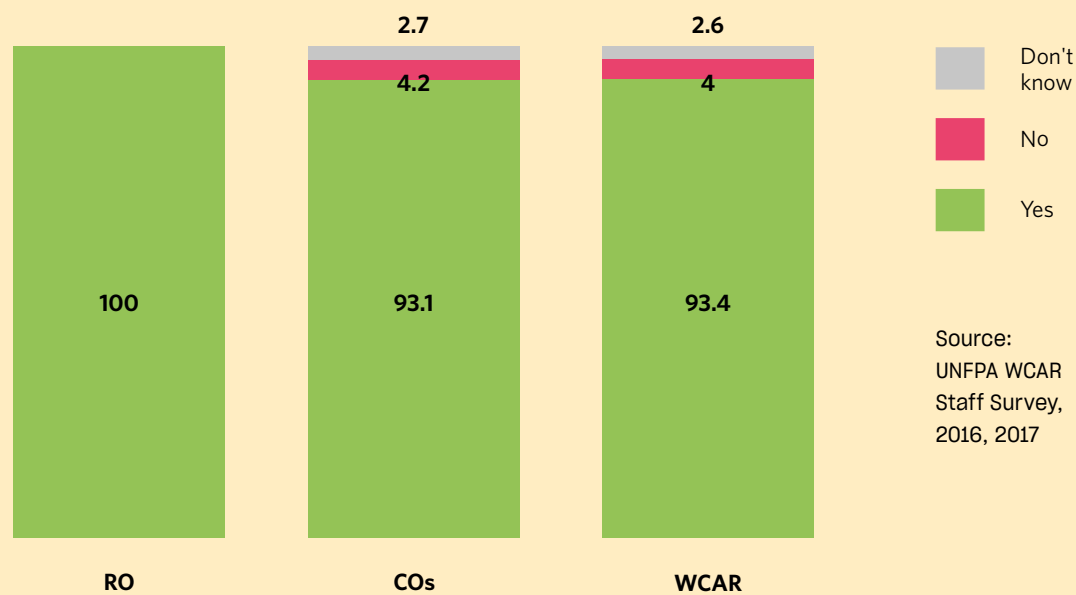
Existence of mechanisms to favor team work



Satisfaction for collaboration between RO and CO



Is Demographic dividend considered as the major agenda in your office



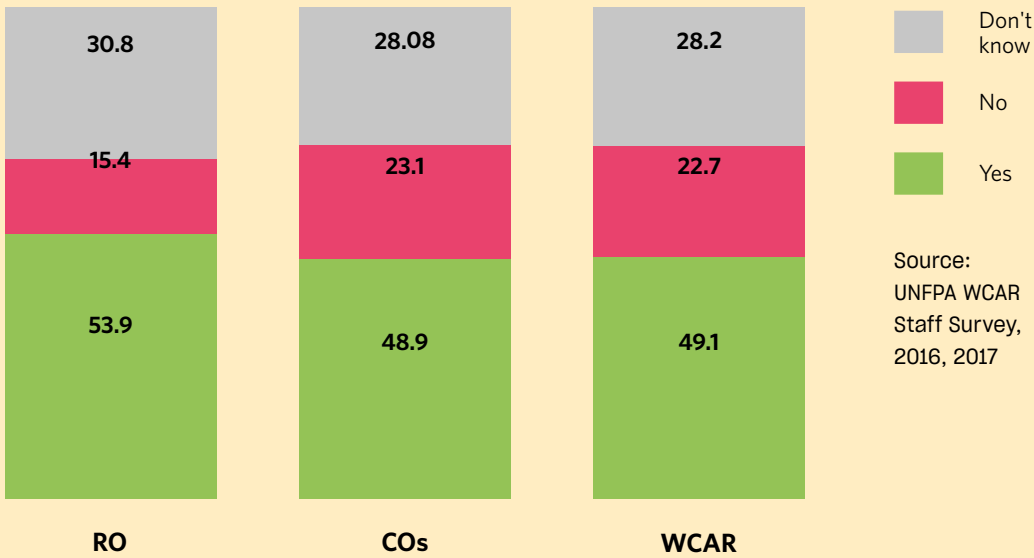
Source:
UNFPA WCAR
Staff Survey,
2016, 2017

Strategic partnerships to accelerate the roadmap on the demographic dividend

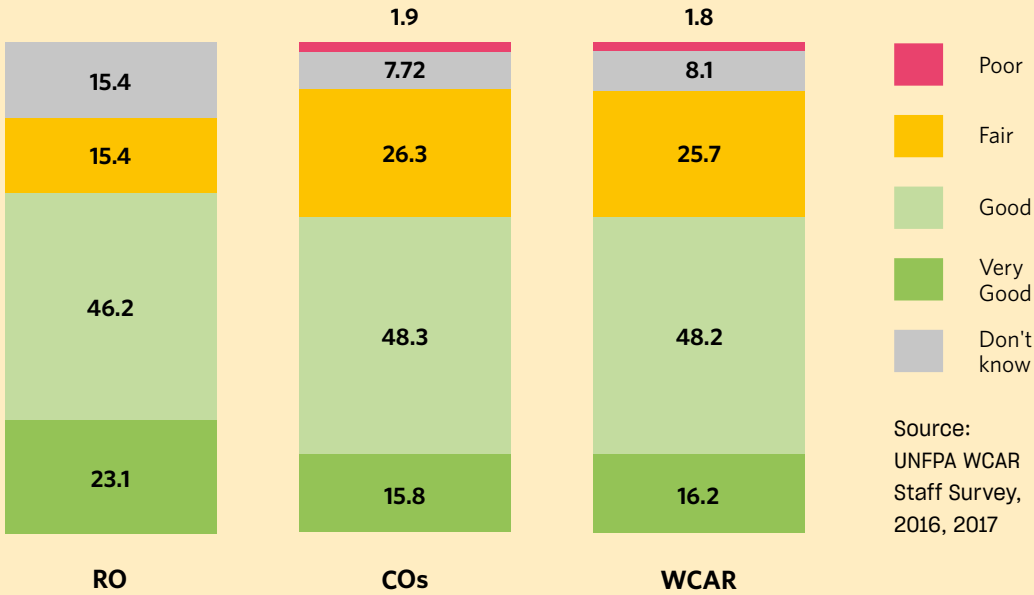


Source: UNFPA WCAR Staff Survey, 2016, 2017

Resource mobilization to support the demographic dividend agenda?



Efficiency of the strategy of communication around the demographic dividend





↑ Ganvie, So-Ava commune, Benin. Houhkpe Debora, 20, is about to kiss her young son. "Children represent the family wealth here in Ganvie. If you don't have any children, you are nothing here. So my son is my joy. I would like to have seven in total. One day I was watching a movie on tv and the character was named "Sydney". I liked it and so I call my son with that name. When I will be old, he will take care of me."

WCA region performance on Country Programme Documents from 2013 to 2017

It once more puts universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights at the very centre of its development agenda.

For the second consecutive year, the programme coordination unit operationalized the roadmap for quality assurance support to Country Programme Documents (CPD) roll-out countries.

Using a three-fold approach (capacity building, integrated technical support and quality assurance mechanism), the use of the roadmap has been effective in positively changing the quality of country programmes in WCA region.

From a 50 per cent satisfactory rating in 2012, the region reached 100 per cent performance

in 2016 and 90 per cent in 2017, before the global programme review committee (PRC) (see figure below).

The region later reached a 100 per cent satisfaction rating, after it had aligned itself with the new strategic plan and the new CPD template and editorial guidelines. Three countries (Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mauritania) were among the highest rated documents globally and this demonstrates the tremendous efforts made by the country teams developing these programming documents.

The adoption of the strategic plan 2018-2021 marked a turning point in UNFPA's strategic vision. It once more puts universal access to SRHR at the very centre of its development agenda.

The vision is also closely aligned with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and clearly defines the longer term vision and the interlinkages of the three strategic plans until 2030.

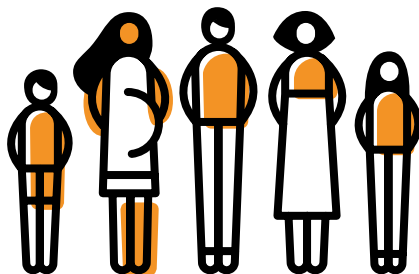
Three bold results must now be achieved - zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet needs for FP and zero harmful practices - while keeping the four previous outcome areas around SRH, adolescents and youth, gender and population dynamics.

Building on lessons learnt in the previous strategic plan, more flexibility is now seen in the business model, which has now introduced a component on coordination, partnerships and

south-south cooperation, in addition to advocacy, policy dialogue, knowledge management, capacity building and service delivery.

Innovation in strategic approaches to deliver high impact results should now be considered at all levels during the planning processes. The new strategic plan takes a proactive step in the UN reform agenda as it defines a common chapter that shows how UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women intend to work, plan and implement together by strengthening partnerships and increasing efficiency using the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) and the SDGs goals.

Key areas of collaboration include eradicating poverty, climate change, adolescents and maternal health, gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, data and humanitarian and emergencies.



Our commitment to working together to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda

"As we set our strategic directions for the next four years, we –UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN-Women – commit to working better together, characterized by stronger coherence and collaboration. We note with appreciation the UN Secretary-General's report on repositioning the UN's development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together we will step up our joint efforts, with a sense of urgency, to better support countries to achieve sustainable development. In line with the 2016 QCPR of operational activities for development of the UN system, we will help shape a UN development system that responds to our changing world and works in increasingly effective ways to deliver on the SDGs. Our strategic

plans represent a clear commitment to UN reform and greater coherence in support of results."

Key areas for collaboration

The principles of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching the furthest behind' first permeate all four of our strategic plans. In direct response to the QCPR, we will harness our respective collaborative advantage, in compliance with our respective mandates, in these key areas:

- a. Eradicating poverty;
- b. Addressing climate change;
- c. Improving adolescent and maternal health;
- d. Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

To achieve these transformative results, the strategic plan emphasizes the need for strengthened partnerships and innovation.

- e. Ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development;
- f. Emphasizing that development is a central goal in itself, and that in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, the development work of the entities of the UN development system can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in accordance with national plans, needs and priorities, and respecting national ownership.

Strategic direction of the UNFPA strategic plan

The goal of the strategic plan, 2018-2021, is to “achieve universal access to SRH, realize reproductive rights, and reduce maternal mortality to accelerate progress on the agenda of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, to improve the lives of women, adolescents

and youth, enabled by population dynamics, human rights and gender equality”.

And will be organized around three transformative and people-centred results in the period leading up to 2030. These include: (a) an end to preventable maternal deaths; (b) an end to the unmet need for FP ; and (c) an end to GBV and all harmful practices, including FGM and child, early and forced marriage. To achieve these transformative results, the strategic plan emphasizes the need for strengthened partnerships and innovation. It also emphasizes, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the QCPR, stronger collaboration and coordination within the UN system, to ensure a coherent, integrated and effective UN response to support countries and communities in achieving the SDGs.

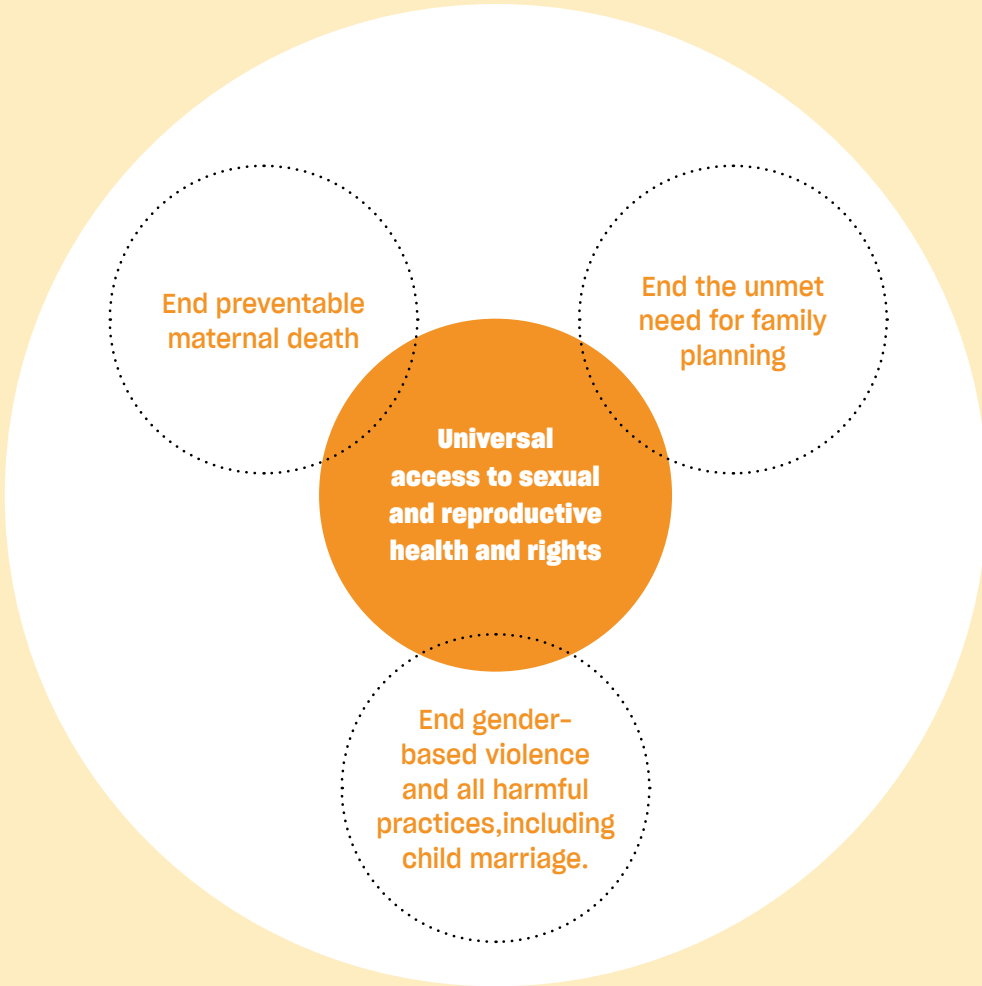


↑ Simplicia Zannou and her husband Kokossou Bourasma consult a nurse on the mobile clinic boat, about birth control. Simplicia will find out later she is pregnant

The goal of the UNFPA strategic plan goal is aligned to the goals and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



**Universal and People Centered
Transformative Results
Vision 2030**



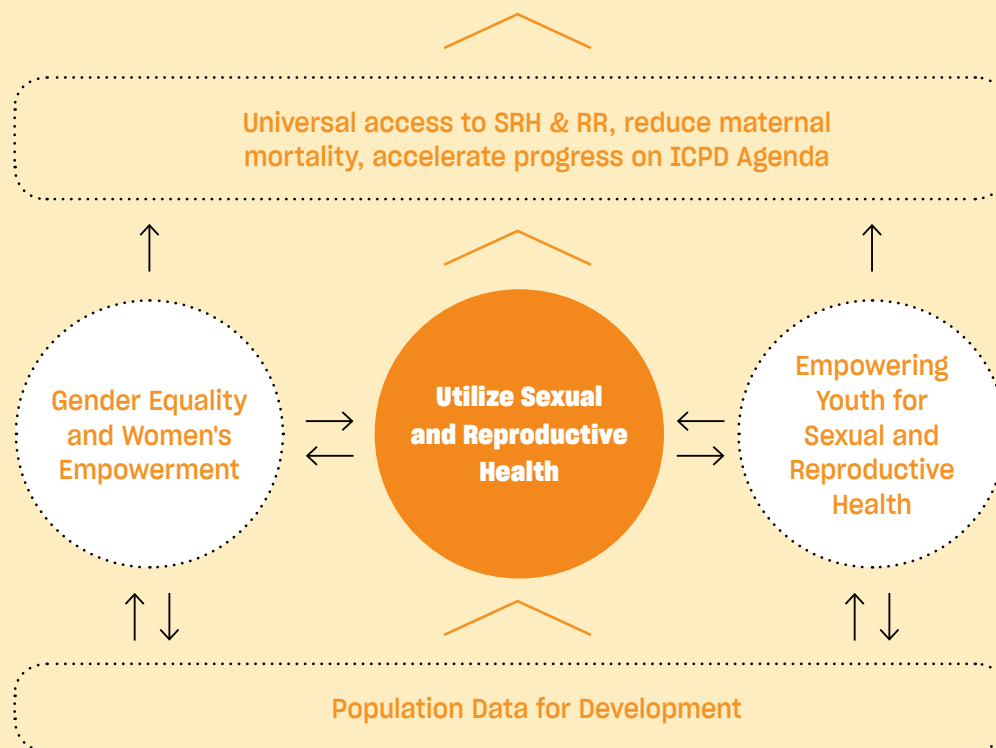
Implemented through:
UNFPA "Bull's eye"
for three consecutive
strategic plan cycles

Enabled by:
Evidence and population
expertise

Focusing on:
Empowerment of
women and young people,
especially adolescent girls

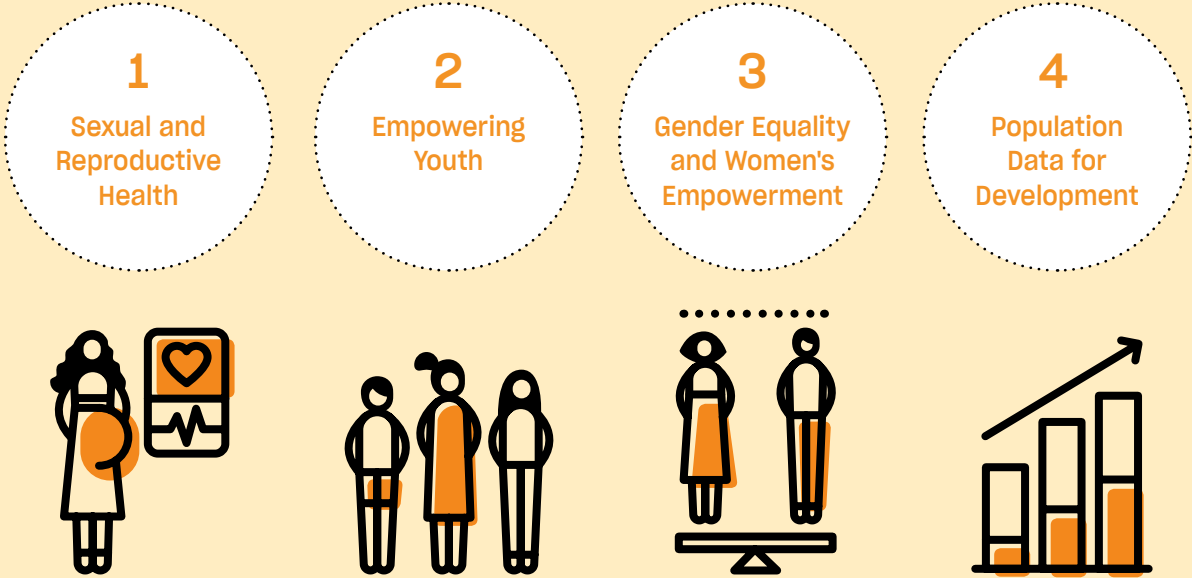
Delivered in:
Humanitarian and
development settings

Strategic Plan Change Model



- Protecting and promoting human rights
- "Leaving no one behind" and "reaching the furthest behind first"
- Gender responsiveness
- Reducing risk and vulnerabilities and building resilience
- Strengthening cooperation and complementarity among development, humanitarian action and sustaining peace improving accountability, transparency and efficiency

Strategic Plan Outcome Area



Business Model-Mode of engagement

Modes of engagement	Countries in the red quadrant and countries with humanitarian crises	Countries in the orange quadrant	Countries in the yellow quadrant	Countries in the pink quadrant
Service delivery	<div></div>	Not deployed		
Capacity development	<div>***</div>	<div>***</div>	<div>**</div>	<div>*</div>
Partnership and coordination, including South south and triangular cooperation	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Knowledge management	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Advocacy, policy dialogue and advice	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

- * The focus in on an enabling environment
- ** The focus in on an enabling environment and on institutional levels
- *** The focus in on an enabling environment and on institutional and individual levels

Regional Intervention Action Plan for UNFPA West and Central Africa

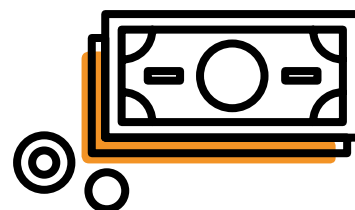
Aligned to the strategic plan 2018-2021, the WCA regional intervention action plan (RIAP) covers the same period and serves as a framework for interventions across the region. It will be operationalized through three regional priorities:

- engage in high-level policy dialogue with regional institutions, positioning population issues into national agendas and enhancing knowledge-generation and sharing;
- development of regional products, including generation and dissemination of data and research on adolescents and youth in both development and humanitarian contexts, and creation of a regional platform for monitoring RH commodities. The regional office will facilitate country-level policy development to reduce maternal

mortality and address unmet need for FP, complemented by supporting the roll-out of international standards for SRHR, elimination of harmful practices and mainstreaming the demographic dividend in national programming processes; and

- enhance support and continue to build CO capacity to implement country programmes, with particular emphasis on strengthening the coherence and complementarity between development and humanitarian interventions.

The Regional Intervention Action Plan (RIAP) will contribute to the four outcomes of the strategic plan through 12 development outputs and three organizational effectiveness and efficiency outputs.



Strategic Directions 2018-2021

A Resource Mobilization and Partnership plan has been agreed which will encourage all WCA countries to make actual programmatic investments in demographic dividend projects. The projected goal for the region for 2018 and beyond is to mobilize non-core funds of USD 75 million per year or USD 300 million for four years. Based on the needs and priorities highlighted in the Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021 and the RIAP, and building on quite successful achievements over the past three years in terms of resource mobilization, WCARO will pursue five major objectives:

1. Engage traditional donors locally across the region

Conduct regular donor mapping with the aim of strengthening relationships with a set of donors who have significant potential for resource mobilization in the region. Support engagement with donors at country level or

through multi-country initiatives such as the Mano River Midwifery Initiative.

The objective is to maintain or increase the level of OECD-DAC contributions above a threshold of USD 40 million a year.

2. Increase contributions to programme country and regional initiatives

'Programme country co-financing' is now an organizational priority to diversify sources of funding. Policies and procedures include identifying middle-income countries and resource mobilization 'engines'; a matching funds modality; and a preferential cost recovery rate for programme country governments contributing to their own country programmes.

In the WCA region, this modality has been pursued through different ways. In total, during the period 2014-2017, a total of USD 50,525,632 was mobilized either through direct contribution or in the framework of ini-



↑ Regional and country office staff at the regional planning meeting in Accra, Ghana

tiatives, such as the SWEDD. The SWEDD financing modality together with other innovative partnerships will be promoted with governments as well as with regional and international financial institutions. UNFPA will position itself as a convener, go-between and expert institution for the provision of technical assistance to countries on their path to harness demographic dividend, in the framework of the AU roadmap.

The objective is to reach the level of USD 15 million a year

3. Develop financial partnerships with foundations and multilateral institutions

Until now, UNFPA has focused its efforts on raising funds through donations from corporations, with uneven and rather small results. Directions in corporate partnerships are shift-

ing from donations for specific projects to cross-sector capacity-building.

The objective of this component is to reach the level of USD 10 million a year

4. Enhance joint programmes with other UN agencies

In the framework of the AU roadmap to harness demographic dividend, UNFPA will strengthen its position as a responsible partner in order to tap into existing pooled funding mechanisms, which provide opportunities for programmes to be scaled up and for more UN Delivering as One.

The objective is to maintain or increase the level of inter-agency transfer to about USD 10 million a year

5. Build strategic partnerships to harness demographic dividend

Over the past three years, WCARO has strengthened and broadened its range of strategic partners. Related efforts have led to strong engagement by several groups of stakeholders including youth and parliamentary networks, FBOs and the elders. Successful initiatives such as the Muskoka or the SWEDD will be used as examples for replication.

In 2016 and 2017, regional office efforts to develop strategic partnerships have led to strong engagement by several groups of partners and institutions. Most of the institutions approached have expressed strong interest in developing concrete partnerships around the main priority of the region: the demographic dividend and the implementation of the AU roadmap.

Implementation strategies

To reach strategic direction and achieve these ambitious objectives, WCARO is implementing a five-pronged approach to support its resource mobilization and partnerships efforts over the period 2018 to 2021:

- **Operationalize political, technical and financial partnerships** that would support the implementation of the regional programme.
- **Design and develop robust proposals for initiatives** where a regional approach brings added-value and contribute to respond to priorities.

- **Develop regional capacity and reorganize human and knowledge resources** to mobilize additional resources more efficiently, and proactively engage partnership opportunities with a view to increase rates and quality of delivery (substance and time).
- **Use core and non-core resources more efficiently** from the early beginning of programme implementation **to engage** governments, private sector, emerging donors and non-traditional stakeholders **in innovative partnerships** conducive to increased mobilization of resources.
- **Strengthen** relationship with the media and engage them in constructive dialogue to promote and support advocacy and policy dialogue and use them to disseminate messages and achievements. **Develop communication linkages** that will enable and support detection and pursuit of partnership opportunities and provide platforms for interactions with partners and donors and engagement opportunities with increased visibility.

In 2016 and 2017, regional office efforts to develop strategic partnerships have led to strong engagement by several groups of partners and institutions.



↑ UNFPA WCARO works with youth networks to strengthen their understanding capacities on demographic dividend

← UNFPA Mali Representative, Josiane Yaguiou, chaired a session at the regional planning meeting in Accra, Ghana

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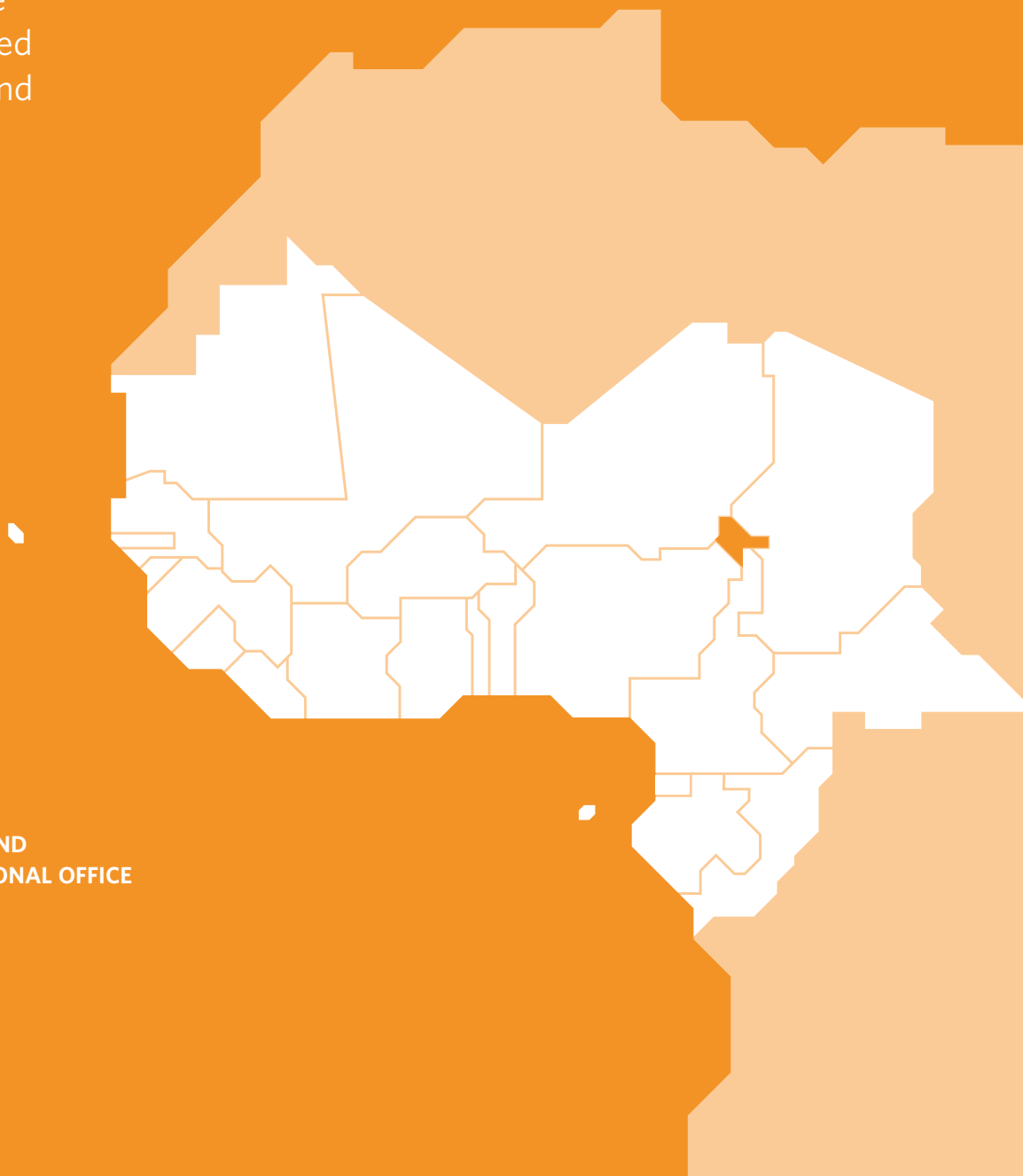
All 23 Country Offices in the region contributed
to the report.

Photographs

Unless otherwise indicated, photos are from
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Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's
potential is fulfilled



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