

Gender

Reproductive
Health

Population
Development

Youth

Humanitarian

UNFPA Transformational Results, 2030:
Ending unmet need for family planning,
Ending maternal death, and
Ending violence and harmful practices against women and girls.



Remember Dilara? Defying Family and Society Pressures to Put Education First

Dilara was 16 when she lost her parents. Her paternal uncle who looked after her, wanted her to get married. She didn't. Against the odds, Dilara defied her uncle, overcame the family pressure and fought the guilt of knowing how desperately her family needed the dowry money her marriage would bring. She pursued education.

[UNFPA spoke to Dilara in 2014.](#) What makes Dilara's sto-

ry even more incredible is that when her uncle later died, she became the only breadwinner of the family of five. Dilara, not her real name, constantly and tirelessly looked for a job and eventually found a minimum salary job at a Ministry of Public Health hospital paying just 4,000 Afghanis per month, equivalent to 58 US Dollars. That salary paid less than 60 percent of the house rent where she lived. She worked and studied simultaneously gradually building her skills and confidence.

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About UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA is the United Nations agency which leads global efforts to help ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA is mandated by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, to reduce infant and child mortality, reduce neonatal, maternal mortality, and increase access to reproductive health services including family planning. The Cairo Consensus placed these population and development issues within a human rights based framework, and UNFPA is committed to integrating human rights into its work globally.

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Afghan Mother's Life Saved in Remote Village by Midwife

It was midnight in the remote mountainous village of Arvige in Chesht-e Sharif district, Herat province of Afghanistan. Khurshid, an Afghan mother was 16 weeks pregnant with her 5th child. Amena, 22, the midwife at the UNFPA supported Family Health House (FHH) was examining heavily bleeding and unconscious Khurshid. Amena had been working at the FHH for two years and knew it was a miscarriage, one of the main causes of maternal death in Afghanistan.

In this remote village people are living with harsh conditions and the Family Health House is the only

health facility available to them. That night Khurshid fell unconscious after suffering from severe pain and bleeding at home. Once she was unconscious the family arranged for a vehicle to take her to family health house.

[Read Full Story](#)

"Now I feel healthy and am very much thankful to the midwife, Amena, who has helped me recover of a mortal situation and saved my life."

Khurshid.

More than Seventy Afghan Mothers to Receive Obstetric Fistula Surgical Repairs

With the technical and financial support of UNFPA, Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan established its second obstetric fistula treatment centre in Herat regional hospital. UNFPA provided trainings for 9 health workers including surgeons, midwives and an anesthesiologist. In this centre, 27 patients with pelvic floor disorder including obstetric fistula have received successful repair surgeries.

Obstetric Fistula is a child birth injury, a hole or fistula from the urinary bladder and/or the rectum to the birth canal.

Mainly caused by prolonged obstructed labor, the condition devastates lives of women, leaving them with constant leakage of urine or faeces or both.

Three per cent of women in Afghanistan have had symptoms of fistula, both in urban (4 per cent) and rural areas (3 per cent), however, more than half of these mothers did not seek treatment, (Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2015).



"I think I am reborn after the surgery. I am going to start a new and clean life when I go home", said Jamila, 30, mother of one girl got a surgical repair for obstetric fistula at the UNFPA supported Obstetric Fistula Treatment Centre in Herat.

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Rights-based Family Life Education

Rights-based Family Life Education Can Help School Children to Grow into Confident and Responsible Adults

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to develop Family Life Education (FLE) materials for grades 4 to 12, that meet international standards, are culturally sensitive and age appropriate, based on comprehensive research, with full consideration of Islamic teachings.

"United Nations Population Fund in Afghanistan works with government to ensure that young people's potential is fulfilled, and we strongly believe that Family Life Education is a key component of reaching our goals", said Dr. Bannet Ndyabangi UNFPA Representative in Afghanistan at the handing over ceremony of the FLE materials to the Ministry of Education

Family life education is a rights based and gender focused approach to education on basic life skills for a healthy life, with dignity to enable adolescent and youth make informed decisions.

Family Life Education is a rights based and gender sensitive approach that covers numerous issues such as relationship dynamics, gender norms, puberty, reproductive health, human rights, and discrimination. FLE provides children and adolescents information, skills and values that enable young people to make informed choices about their health and family life, opportunities for young people to explore their attitudes and values, and practice key skills as negotiation and decision making.

Including FLE in school curricula is particularly important because its reach to the Afghan population is extensive. There are 8.9 million Afghan children enrolled in schools (Afghanistan Statistical Year Book, 2016).





Strengthening the Capacity of National Police Officers in Prevention and Response

to Gender-based Violence Cases

UNFPA in Afghanistan has been working with the Ministry of Interior since 2013 to train uniformed police officers in gender-based violence prevention and response.

In a culturally sensitive and religious context as that of Afghanistan responding to gender-based violence requires skills and behavior that is religious and cultural sensitive and at the same time a response that puts the survivor's safety before everything else.

According to the Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey 2015, 56 per cent of ever married women aged 15-49 reported to have experienced one form of emotional, physical, or sexual violence from their spouse.

UNFPA works to build expertise of the Afghan police in three areas of 1) capacity building in case management, 2) Support to develop standard operating procedures and mentorship, 3) communication campaigns on the severe negative consequences of gender-based violence.

UNFPA has trained 5,306 police officers so far in 16 provinces around the country. UNFPA plans to expand the

training of police to 10 more provinces during 2018 – 2021 and train a total of 3500 more police officials during the period. Between 2013 and 2016 the police officers trained by UNFPA have registered 2,986 GBV cases. Such cases are dealt with by the police and resolved, however, when and if required the survivors are further guided to health facilities where UNFPA family protection centers are located and/or to the judiciary and the Ministry of Women Affairs.



Population and Development

Afghanistan Population Data Generation with the Innovative Approach of Remote Sensing

United Nations Population Fund supported the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan in an innovative approach to develop authentic population data with the use of satellite imagery and remote sensing technology facilitated by Flowminder.

Up-to-date and authentic data is critical for national and sub-national development planning and monitoring. The data was presented to His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani, who expressed appreciation for the innovative **and** cost-effective approach to providing authentic and up-to-date data.

The innovative approach of generating Population data based on satellite imagery and remote sensing technology has been developed to respond to the challenges faced by countries such as Afghanistan, where field work is hampered by conflict situations.

The data provided will support the work of policy makers, government and non-governmental organizations, development partners, the international community, academia and research institutions.

President Ashraf Ghani expressed appreciation for the innovative and cost-effective approach to providing authentic and up-to-date data.

Strengthening Demographic Studies; Training Faculty of Economy professors at Kabul University

After establishing demographic studies as part of the curricula at the Faculty of Economy in Kabul University, UNFPA in line with its commitment to the faculty, organized a comprehensive training of trainers in demography, data management and utilization with special focus on further analysis and use of demographic data.

The training was conducted by an international demographer, Dr. John Ssekamatte, with a PhD in demography. The training was attended by 8 professors of the faculty of economy, 3 data experts from the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan and 2 from the Ministry of Economy.

The training was a comprehensive, full day training for two weeks. The curriculum developed for the faculty of the economy in basic demography and data management was used. Trainers will use the same curriculum to teach demography and data management at the faculty, and also at relevant government offices.

The training included; basic demographic concepts and measures, calculation and description of basic demographic measures, relating selected population and local development planning concepts and measures among others.

Humanitarian

UNFPA Humanitarian Programme: Reaching crisis affected population including; returnees, and internally displaced populations with emergency reproductive health care

UNFPA works with the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan, International Organization of Migration, through the Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA) to reach crisis affected population, including returnees and internally displaced population (IDPs) with emergency reproductive health services in Torkham zero point and IOM transit center and also in Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Kabul provinces.

According to the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview of Afghanistan there are 9.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

During the second and third quarter of 2017, UNFPA reached 88,564 people including IDPs and returnees and their host communities with reproductive health services, information and gender-based violence response through 4 mobile health teams, family protection centers and at Torkham border clinic, IOM transit centre, Fatima-tu-Zahra hospital and 4 women friendly health spaces in the 4 provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Kabul. This also included training 20 midwives in emergency obstetric and newborn care from these provinces at Nangarhar hospital.