

## Who we are?

UNFPA's West and Central Africa Regional Office and 23 Country Offices work together in support of a region where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Our mission is to build the foundations for change by enabling girls and mothers to make choices. We want them to be able to choose when to marry, choose when to give birth and choose how many children they want. We want to help them (and all young people, whatever their gender) to get the essential knowledge, training and skills they need for a dignified life and be able to choose a rewarding job. And when they choose to have children, we want to help them do that safely too and for these children to thrive in a political climate which is empowering, open and honest and encourages equal opportunity for all.



## Our Focus

We believe that bringing down the birth rate and empowering women and young people, especially adolescent girls, is the key to harnessing the Demographic Dividend - where a youthful workforce with fewer dependents bring about a stronger economy and better lives for all.

*“My belief (is) that if we hold true to our goals and continue to commit to this new spirit of teamwork, cooperation and partnership, we in the West and Central Africa region can become a model of excellence.”*

Mabingue Ngom,  
Regional Director UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office.

## A HOLISTIC RESPONSE TO REGIONAL CHALLENGES



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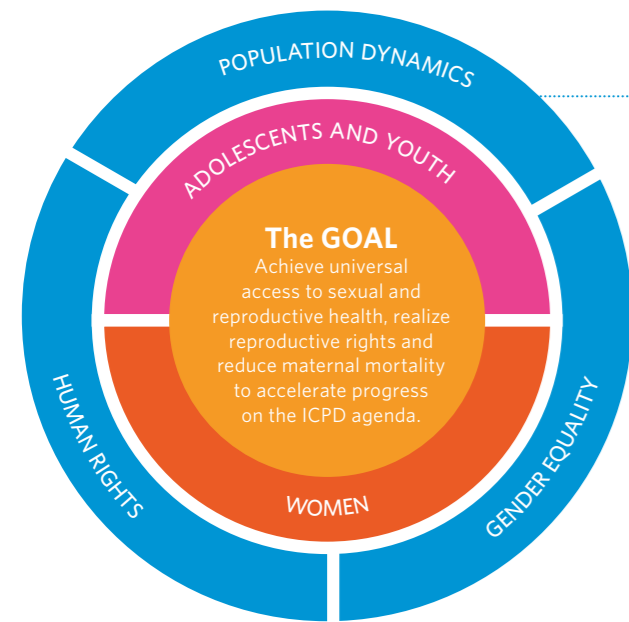
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# TRANSFORMING AND UPLIFTING LIVES

*One Region One Mission*



WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE



UNFPA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- THE GOAL
- TO IMPROVE LIVES OF
- ENABLED BY

## How are we doing this?

We are doing this in a spirit of cooperation - within our own organisation and with external partners. Every day, we are working to encourage our partners - from political and community leaders to girls on the playground - to share our vision. We help governments design new policies, talk to opinion makers in the community, recruit peer educators and work to provide easy and informed access to modern contraception. We also support youth empowerment and facilitate access to reproductive health services, provide counselling and support to victims of gender-based violence and work to make countries vulnerable to environmental and human disasters more resilient. These are just some of the many ways in which we are striving for a holistic solution to the challenges faced in the region.

During 2015, we celebrated some notable achievements - traditional and religious leaders committed to advocating against child marriage and for secondary school education for all and several political leaders enacted laws forbidding marriage under the age of 18 and ending female genital mutilation. In support of government priorities, we also forged ahead with a number of new initiatives.

These included:

- Providing counselling and support to women who have escaped imprisonment by Boko Haram and reproductive health services to those displaced by the insurgency.
- Responding to the weaknesses exposed in all health services by the Ebola Virus and proposing a wide-ranging framework addressing the needs of young people in the region and establishing a demographic and health surveillance system.
- Becoming a key partner in the Mano River Integrated Recovery Framework, a cross-border collaborative response to the Ebola crisis in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. At the request of the countries, we will advance regional financing and programming to help build resilience and support recovery of maternal health systems in the region.

- Enabling the launch of the Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Initiative - a 200 million USD programme to tackle the extreme challenges of this region in close coordination with the concerned countries, the World Bank and other strategic partners.
- Encouraging each of our Country Offices to develop their own business models, agendas and financing strategies.
- Accompanying the Ouagadougou Partnership which covers nine Francophone countries and works to provide increased family planning advice and access to the region.

We also continued with existing programmes designed to bring down birth and fertility rates and educate and empower women and girls. These included:

- Helping women affected by Obstetric Fistula regain their dignity and educating young girls and health workers about the risks of early pregnancy.
- Using the power of the media to change attitudes towards reproductive health and rights - including rejecting child marriage and female genital mutilation
- Providing sexual health as well as education and skills to young people - including innovative programmes such as one in Cameroon encouraging girls to overcome stereotypes by playing football.
- Building resilience in the region to human and environmental challenges, such as extremism or disease. For example,



of the population in West and Central Africa is under 24 years old

### EBOLA OUTBREAK-UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN WEST AFRICA

GUINEA	LIBERIA	SIERRA LEONE
48 STAFF	4023 STAFF	1503 STAFF
575 contact tracers + supervisors trained	245 contact tracers + 20,000 contacts identified	200 trainee clothes
8,158 contacts traced	KITS DELIVERED: Infection control, Emergency RH, Clean Delivery, Universal Precaution, Blood transfusion sets, Post-rape & Equipment	23,450 GYN gloves
Surveillance: 70 mobile phones + CommCare appl	19 partners	4,500 contact tracers + supervisors trained
100 Health workers hired	155,000 Expected live births	53,321 contacts traced
439,765 Expected live births	11 partners	Surveillance: 150 mobile phones
	community awareness	18,000 Dignity Kits
	213,280 Expected live births	RH for safe delivery, Universal Precaution

we are strengthening health systems post Ebola and providing essential sexual and reproductive services to women and girls displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency.

- Providing counselling and medical care to more than 60,000 victims of gender-based violence in conflict areas.

## Where are we going from here?

By focusing on realizing the Demographic Dividend with strong partnerships, sound programming, adequate resources, good communication, high level advocacy and policy dialogue alongside a commitment to common goals, we will continue to transform and uplift the lives of the women and young people in the West and Central Africa region.



### UNFPA SUPPORTS ACCESS TO SERVICES BY WOMEN AND GIRLS

Services and supplies provided January to September 2015 in Lake Chad Basin countries affected by Boko Haram crisis.

Source: SWOP 2015

**NIGER**  
 53,312 condoms distributed  
 10,913 women and adolescent girls accessed family planning  
 1,458 women assisted for safe deliveries  
 1,407 dignity kits were distributed to refugees  
 906 women received antenatal care  
 118 adolescents and youth received training as reproductive health educators for refugees  
 40 health providers were trained  
 22 women survivors of gender-based violence received psychological support

**CHAD**  
 28,000 condoms distributed  
 2,500 women, men and young people attended awareness-raising about gender-based violence  
 510 women assisted for safe deliveries  
 1,500 women received antenatal care  
 1,500 women received gender-based violence services  
 500 women accessed contraception

**NIGERIA**  
 2,108,441 peoples' awareness raised about preventing and responding to gender-based violence  
 27,293 women assisted for safe deliveries  
 22,000 women and adolescent girls received dignity kits  
 214 reproductive health kits (1,759 cartons) distributed, containing a range of life-saving medical equipment, drugs and other supplies  
 213 health workers and programme managers were trained in providing reproductive health services in humanitarian settings  
 56 midwives and nurses were trained in administering long-acting reversible contraception

**CAMEROON**  
 4,075 kits for safe delivery distributed to health posts in camp and centres  
 5,400 dignity kits delivered to pregnant and vulnerable women and girls  
 10,000 male condoms distributed  
 110 women accessed contraception  
 11 cases of rape clinically managed  
 30 district health staff and 40 community health agents trained and deployed  
 22 newly trained midwives deployed  
 5 youth centres equipped for skills development and adolescent counselling  
 4 public health facilities serving refugees equipped to provide quality reproductive health services  
 4 youth and women-friendly spaces created in Minawao camp