UNFPA: Population is About People

UNFPA believes that individual reproductive rights are at the heart of population issues. If people - and especially women - have access to the information and services they need then they will choose smaller families. The right to make individual reproductive health choices is essential to people's welfare and health. It also contributes to sustainable development in balance with national and global resources.

These are the principles set out in the Programme of Action agreed on by the 180 countries which took part in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994. This human-centered vision of sustainable development guides UNFPA's work, emphasising the importance of gender equality, women's empowerment, individual rights and male responsibility in population policy.

The first half of 1999 will see the world's population reach the six billion mark. At the same time, the fifth anniversary of ICPD will be an opportunity to review global progress in meeting its goals. This is the time for UNFPA to reiterate our belief that by taking care of people we empower them to take care of the population issue.

**UNFPA in Cambodia**

1998 was the second year of UNFPA's Country Programme for Cambodia (1997 - 2000). Working in co-operation with government, NGOs and community, there was solid progress in meeting and even exceeding our targets.

The highlight of the year was the National Population and Household Census - Cambodia's first since 1962. The census was a very successful operation, which has already begun yielding data which will assist in planning for the future development of Cambodia.

The national reproductive health sub-programme continued to build the reach and quality of services, which are now available in more than half of the country's health centres, contributing to an increase in the prevalence rate of modern contraceptive methods. Under a new EC/UNFPA funded initiative, the youth reproductive health programme has just begun to provide information and services to 12 - 25 year-olds, while building NGO capacity to work with youth. These achievements would not have been possible without the effective co-operation of all UNFPA's government, international and NGO partners, to whom I express my gratitude.

In spite of these hopeful signs, the challenges Cambodia faces are considerable. The HIV epidemic is growing fast, contraceptive prevalence is low and maternal and child mortality are unacceptably high. With the population expected to double in the next 20 years, there is a danger that population will grow faster than the economy, infrastructure and other resources with a serious impact on the well-being of individuals and families. In this context, the sustainability of programmes is a serious concern. I hope that 1999 will see increased government financial commitment in the social sector, notably health and education, which is a condition for successful development.

Hedi Jemel, UNFPA Representative

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**Cambodia: Demographic & Health Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Values</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Population 1998</td>
<td>11.4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Population 2000</td>
<td>12.2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Population 2010</td>
<td>19.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage Urban</td>
<td>15.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Women</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women of Reproductive age (15 - 49) as percentage of population</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage aged 0 - 14</td>
<td>42.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Net Rate of Population Growth</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fertility Rate</td>
<td>5.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contraceptive Prevalence Rate - all methods</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Rate</td>
<td>473/100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate (age 0-1)</td>
<td>89.4/1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Mortality Rate (age 1-4)</td>
<td>28.1/1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth</td>
<td>54.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>58.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>50.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Incidence</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Literacy</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Literacy</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Basic Health Services (within one km)</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Safe Water</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Sanitation</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Delivers at Home</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage from STDs</td>
<td>197/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Prevalence in married women</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Infected People</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Sources:_
1. National Institute of Social Science
2. Ministry of Health
3. UNICEF
4. UNFPA/CDC
UNFPA's activities in Cambodia fall into three areas - Reproductive Health, Population and Development Strategies and Advocacy. Through these three inter-related sectors, UNFPA works to realise the goals of ICPD, promoting individual reproductive rights for a stable population and gender-balanced sustainable development.

Reproductive Health

Complementary projects aim to build Cambodia's capacity to provide accessible, quality services to meet reproductive health needs.

BUILDING A NATIONAL RESPONSE TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEEDS

1998 was the second year of the reproductive health, birth spacing and sexual health project, implemented by the Ministry of Health in partnership with Marie Stopes International and WHO. This programme aims to integrate reproductive health services in the primary health care system - including birth spacing, safe motherhood, STDs and HIV/AIDS.

In 1998, the project:
- extended the provision of reproductive health services to eight new provinces
- provided reproductive health services in more than 50% of the country's health centres located in 13 provinces plus Phnom Penh, serving 80% of the population
- increased the supply of birth spacing methods distributed to health centers by 27% on the previous year
- distributed, through Central Medical Stores, more than a quarter of a million contraceptive injections, more than 200,000 cycles of contraceptive pills and over 400,000 condoms
- funded the purchase of 95 kits of medical and reproductive health equipment to enable health centers to undertake the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA recommended Minimum Package of Activities
- funded refurbishment of 20 health centres and two provincial hospitals
- trained over 1,500 Ministry of Health staff in reproductive health-related subjects
- started pilot safe motherhood projects in two provinces, Kompong Chhnang and Prey Veng
- initiated a major socio-cultural research project to improve quality of reproductive health services and interaction between clients and service providers
- developed a national strategy for information, education and communication on reproductive health

SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Every year, 1,000 women die because of pregnancy and childbirth. Two thousand more are left without a mother, who is often a wage-earner as well as a caregiver.

Another 200,000 Cambodian women suffer illness related to pregnancy and childbirth. Poor health in pregnancy leads to children with lower birth weights and greater vulnerability to poor health and growth. Some women are left with permanent disabilities.

UNFPA is working to make motherhood safer in Cambodia through pilot projects in Prey Veng and Kompong Chhnang, a new system of maternal health services, staff training and establishment of health facilities.

WOMEN COUNSELLING WOMEN

Grassroots women volunteers, mobilized through the network of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, counsel women in their communities and refer them to reproductive health services.

In 1998, the project:
- mobilized and trained over 500 reproductive health counselling volunteers in eight provinces
- provided counselling visits to 115,000 women, mainly in rural areas
- contributed to more than two thirds of women counselled taking up birth spacing
- set up a reference and information resource centre at the Ministry of Women's Affairs
- produced a training video on counselling techniques for volunteers

"Population is more than statistics. It is about people - their health, culture and survival.

H.E. Mr. Norodom Ranariddh

Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
TARGETING VULNERABLE YOUTH

Young Cambodians are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, STDs, sexual exploitation and dangerous pregnancies than their elders. They also know less about reproductive health problems and have difficulty in accessing services. The Youth Reproductive Health Programme, funded under the European Commission/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Asia, is the first attempt to target the reproductive health needs of 12-23 year olds.

In 1998, the Programme:
- initiated seven projects implemented by partnerships between European and Cambodian NGOs
- provided training to 41 NGO staff and youth workers
- undertook baseline surveys on the reproductive health needs and status of target populations
- organized Cambodia’s first workshop on youth reproductive health, including the participation of young people
- began providing information and services to vulnerable groups including rural out of school youth, street children, young prostitutes and factory workers, young prostitutes and factory workers.

Advocacy

Public awareness informs and empowers people to use their reproductive rights. UNFPA supports Cambodian initiatives to publicize gender and population issues.

In 1998 UNFPA supported programs and national initiatives on gender, population and HIV/AIDS:
- in three districts of Kompang Cham, ALEDA, the Cambodian NGO specializing in providing in business training and credit, trained 2,148 clients in micro-business and provided loans to 3,034 clients, 84% of whom are women
- Project Against Domestic Violence's public awareness campaign targeted police, commune and court officials to understand the needs and rights of abused women
- PADY TV and radio spots spread the message that poverty, alcohol and illiteracy are not excuses for domestic violence
- Kremar Women’s Voice Centre carried out community advocacy on girls education, birth spacing and family law in Kompang Cham and Preah Peakh
- Cambodian Women’s Development Association educated sex workers, bar girls, students, police, soldiers and community volunteers in five provinces on HIV/AIDS
- UNFPA supported activities for International Women’s Day, including lectures in school and university, a magazine and seminars advocating gender equality
- 800 young Cambodians from eight provinces entered UNFPA’s poster contest on the theme of Generation Living Together
- TVK produced a documentary on population issues and TV spots on safe motherhood
- Cambodian decision-makers and journalists were targeted for HIV/AIDS advocacy

BRINGING POPULATION ISSUES INTO THE CLASSROOM

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNESCO, UNFPA has promoted the integration of population issues including demography, sexual health education and gender in the high school curriculum.

In 1998, the project:
- completed preparation of 36 textbooks and teachers’ guides for Geography, Moral and Civic Education and Home Economics grades 7-12
- prepared a series of 25 posters on subjects ranging from sustainable development to responsible sexuality to support use of the new books in the classroom
- produced booklets and teacher’s guides on HIV/AIDS for distribution to 310,000 students and 5,000 teachers

The choices made by adolescents will shape the future.
Support for the successful conduct of Cambodia's first census since 1962 was UNFPA's central activity in the sector of population and development for 1998. The project was a partnership with the UN Statistical Division implemented by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning.

**MOBILISING THE POPULATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL CENSUS**

When the census enumerators visited every home in Cambodia, they did not record a single case of refusal to respond. The population had been well-prepared for the census by a public information and awareness campaign executed by UNESCO.

The project:

- produced eight TV and radio spots for broadcast and taped distribution
- distributed 175,000 posters and 200,000 stickers; 55,100 T-shirts; 35,000 caps; 600,000 comic strip booklets to every village in the country
- distributed 250 publicity banners around the country
- distributed 6,000 teacher's manuals and 62,000 educational booklets to initiate a census lesson in all schools in the country
- spread information through existing networks, with special attention to remote areas
- documented the census operation for future use and presented the resulting information package to H.M. the King and key national institutions

**ACHIEVING HIGH QUALITY CENSUS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAMBODIA**

UNFPA was proud to provide technical and financial support to the Royal Government's notable achievement in carrying out the 1998 General Population Census of Cambodia. High quality and coverage were confirmed by the international observers and a post-enumeration survey.

In 1998, the project:

- trained 36,200 census enumerators and supervisors
- trained 4,443 staff in other skills for the census - including mapping, data entry and editing
- during the census period, March 3 - 12, succeeded in counting more than 99% of the population - excluding only an estimated 40,000 people living in insecure areas
- within six months of the census, produced preliminary census results revealing that the population of Cambodia stood at 11.4m with an annual growth rate of 2.4%
- embarked on full data entry, editing and processing in preparation for the detailed analysis and breakdown of the census results
- organised a data-users' meeting on tabulation, analysis and dissemination plans
- organised training in data analysis and utilisation for 15 staff from key ministries
TRAINING CAMBODIA'S FUTURE DEMOGRAPHERS

Demographic teaching at the Royal University of Phnom Penh is being developed in partnership with the French NGO CEMAPA.

In 1998, the project:
- trained 210 students in basic demography and 24 students in applied demography.
- provided demographic training to 24 professionals.
- strengthened the knowledge and teaching skills of 10 university teachers.
- provided students to participate in socio-cultural research.
- developed a computerized database of 5,000 reference materials for the University’s Population Information Resource Centre.

In 1998 UNFPA spent $7 million on projects in Cambodia. Reflecting the expansion of our activities, this was an increase of nearly 75% on the previous year, when UNFPA spent $4.2 million.

For 1998, the greatest expenditure was in the area of Population and Development Strategies, reflecting UNFPA’s major commitment to supporting the census. Reproductive health had the second highest expenditure at 40%, with advocacy at 13%. The other 1% was the umbrella project which provides additional support to the programme, mainly through advocacy activities.

UNFPA is committed to increasing the share of expenditure which is executed directly by the government. We saw good progress here in 1998, with the government executing the largest share - 43%, compared to 11% in 1997.

UNFPA Expenditure in 1998

Distribution by Execution Modality 1996-1998

Distribution by Execution Agencies 1998

Government 43%
UNFPA 20%
Un Agencies 15%
NGO 22%
Advocacy 13%
RH 40%
PDS 44%
Umbrella 1%

164 Pasteur Street, Boeng Kak, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: (855) (23) 214 292, 342 611 Fax: (855) (23) 214 339 E-mail: sphec@unfpa.org.uk