



UNFPA - Government of China



Eighth Country Programme

(2016-2020)



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About the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives.

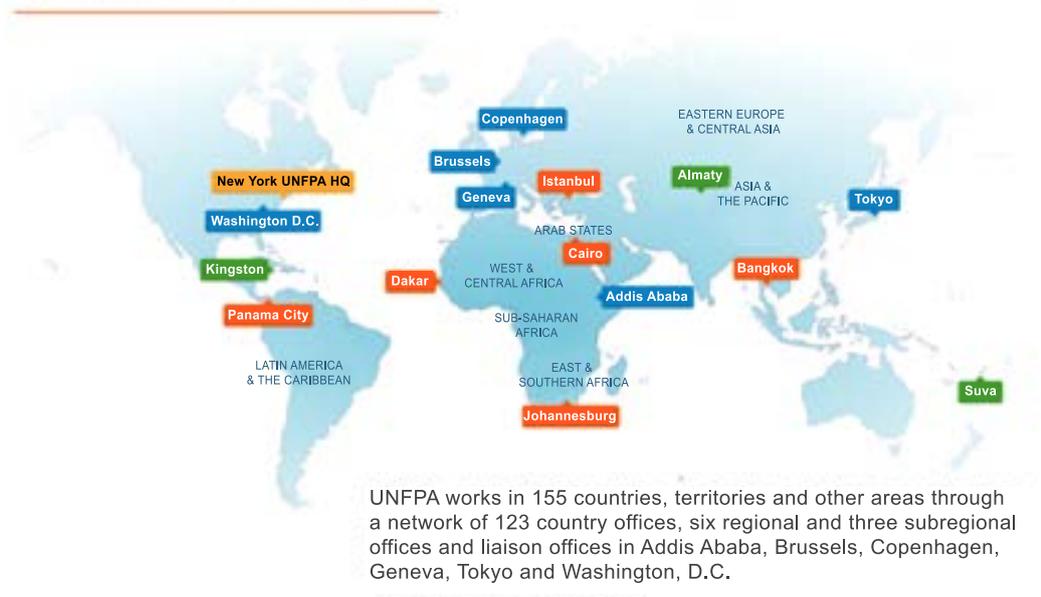
It is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where:

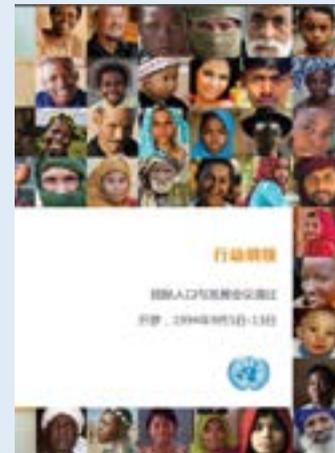
- Every pregnancy is wanted
- Every childbirth is safe
- Every young person's potential is fulfilled

UNFPA is on the ground improving lives in about 150 countries that are home to 80 per cent of the world's population. UNFPA helps countries use population data to assess and anticipate needs, and to monitor progress and gaps in delivering on our promises. UNFPA helps to ensure that the reproductive health and rights of women and young people remain at the very centre of development. UNFPA provides technical guidance, training and support to empower our partners and stakeholders in the field.

Guided by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNFPA partners with governments, civil society, media, academia, other UN agencies and the private sector to advance its mission.

Where UNFPA works



International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The ICPD (Cairo, 1994) was a watershed event that forged an international consensus on population and development. It shed new light on the linkages between reproductive health and rights and other aspects of development.

At the conference, 179 governments, including China, endorsed a 20-year Programme of Action (PoA), which focused on individuals' needs and rights, rather than on achieving demographic targets. Concrete goals include providing universal education; reducing infant, child and maternal mortalities; and ensuring universal access by 2015 to reproductive health services, including family planning, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

The global review of ICPD in 2014 revealed the progress has been made and the significant work

that remains to be done, with recommendations for the linkages with the new 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN in 2015. The ICPD's focus on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights is central to sustainable development. Many SDGs overlap with UNFPA's strategic objectives and the ICPD PoA. Achieving the global goals will depend in part on the extent to which the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people are protected and on whether young people are healthy, educated and can access services and opportunities.

UNFPA is helping countries achieve the SDGs---in particular Goal 3 on health, Goal 4 on education and Goal 5 on gender equality—and contribute to achieving the other goals.



Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping met with UNFPA's first Executive Director Rafael Montinola Salas

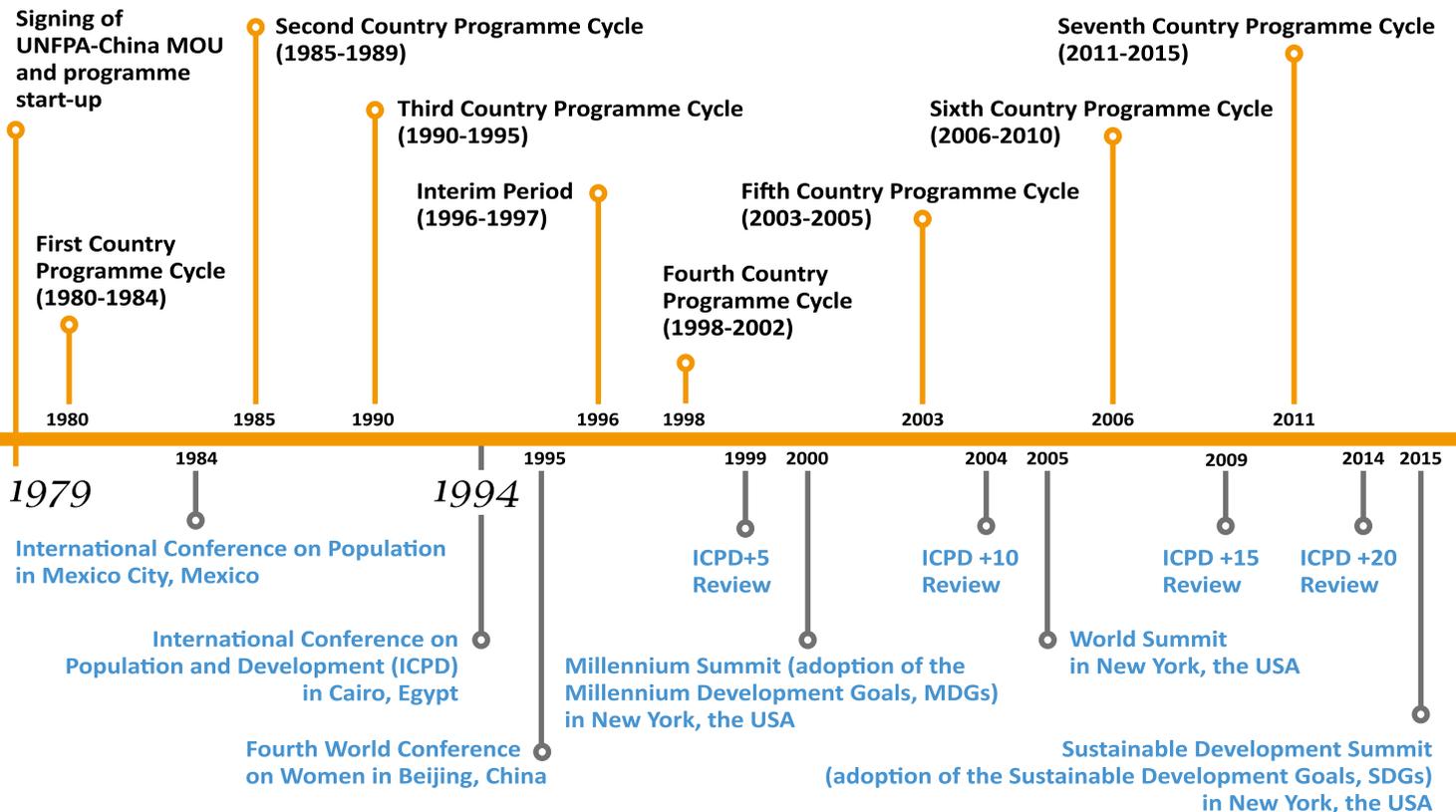
Timeline of UNFPA's Past Presence in China

UNFPA-China Cooperation in Pre-ICPD era:

To assist Government of China in capacity building in population studies, improvements and provision of maternal and child care services, and the capacity in producing quality contraceptives

UNFPA-China Assistance in Post-ICPD Era:

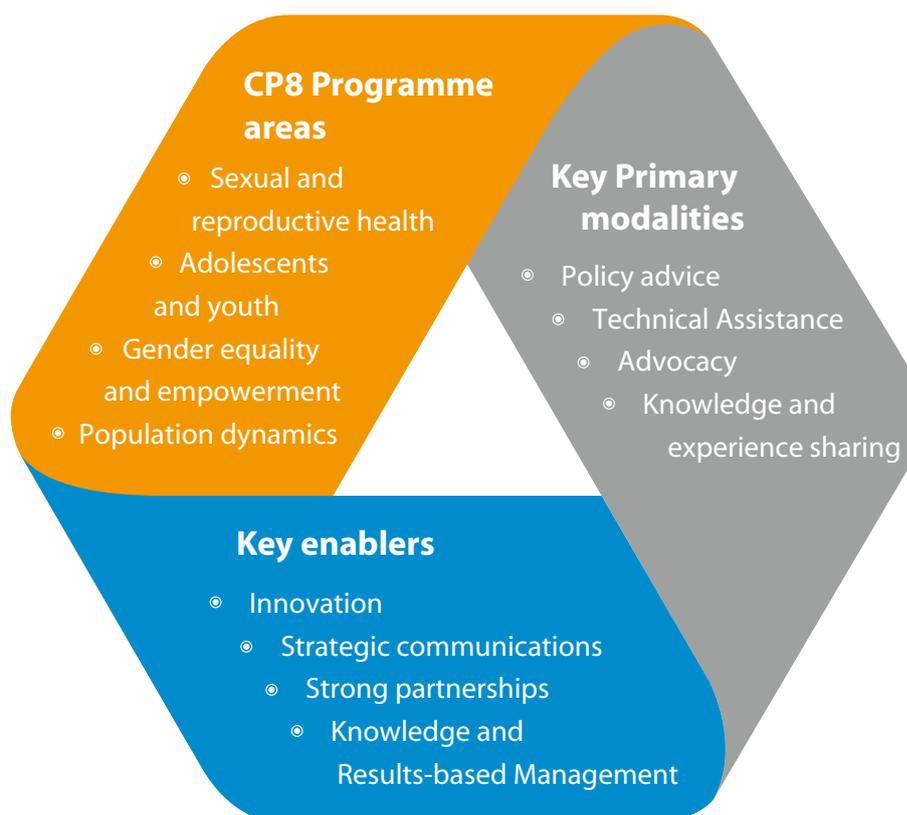
To assist the Government of China in implementing the ICPD PoA and to respond to emerging population issues



Overview of the UNFPA-China Eighth Country Programme (2016-2020)

UNFPA started working with the Chinese Government in 1979. The launching of UNFPA's first Country Programme in China marked the first time that the Chinese Government received assistance from any international agency in relation to population issues. UNFPA's assistance in China has been closely linked to changes in global thinking towards population and development issues and the changing national context in China.

The year 2016 is the beginning of the Eighth Country Programme in China. The programme is aligned with current national priorities outlined in the 13th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development for 2016-2020, and it will contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the same period.



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Everyone has the right to enjoy reproductive health as a basis for having healthy children, intimate relationships and happy families. Sexual and reproductive health encompasses key areas of the UNFPA vision – that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.



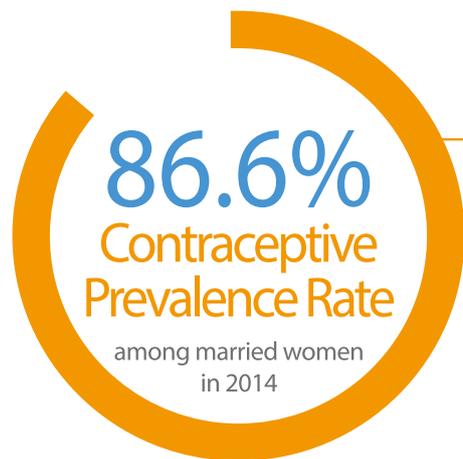
The work in this area contributes to SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Specific targets under this goal call for achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, reducing global maternal death rates, and ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Reproductive health problems are a leading cause of ill health and death for women and girls of childbearing age in developing countries.

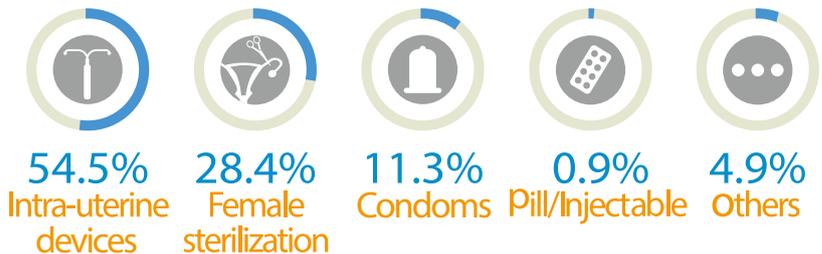


Sexual and Reproductive Health

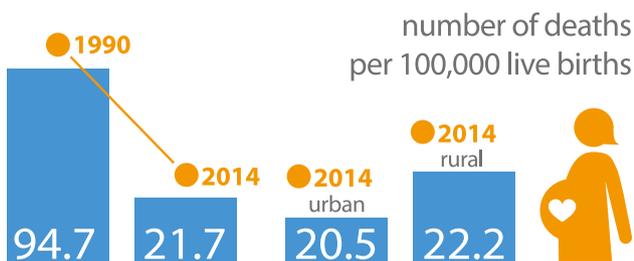
Key Facts and Figures in China



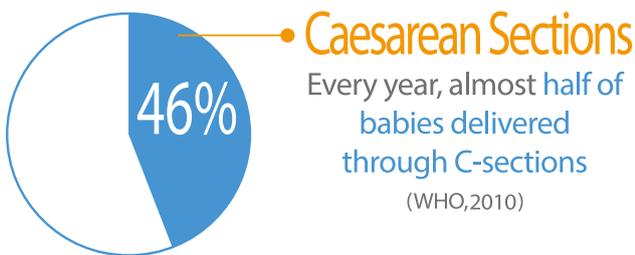
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate: Percentage of women who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is currently using, at least one method of contraception, regardless of the method used. It is usually reported for married or inunion women aged 15 to 49. In China, only married women are surveyed.



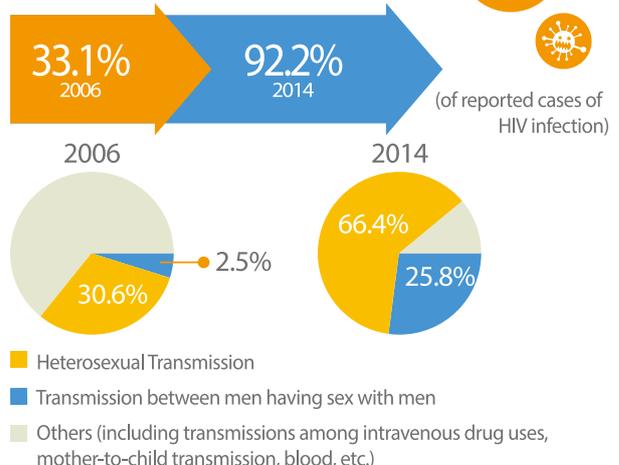
Maternal Mortality ratio



13 estimated million Abortions Annually



HIV/AIDS in 2014 sexual transmission on the rise





Objective

- Strengthened policy environment to advance universal access to integrated rights-based and gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health services

Strategies:

The programme will provide advocacy and policy advisory services for:

- the development of a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy framework
- a rights-based family planning policy in full alignment with the ICPD and universal access to voluntary family planning services
- establishment of midwifery as a health care profession within the national health system
- inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive health commodity security in China's international and South-South cooperation

▶▶ Develop a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy framework

China has achieved remarkable progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goal 5a of reducing maternal mortality. But challenges still remain in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Sexual and reproductive health services are not yet integrated with the maternal and child health services, and essential sexual and reproductive health packages are not yet included in the primary health care. Meanwhile, new SRH challenges have emerged along with the changing context. Risks of HIV and AIDs and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are higher for certain key population groups, including young people, migrants and sex workers.

Addressing these challenges will require an integrated SRH policy for coordinated efforts of

relevant government institutions, communities, health providers and civil society organizations. UNFPA will assist the development of an overarching national SRH framework proposal to guide the improvement of comprehensive service delivery in China. A comprehensive SRH policy framework can guide national efforts to promote universal access to reproductive health, and facilitate a holistic approach to address the inter-related sexual and reproductive health and rights issues.

UNFPA and its partners will provide technical assistance in support of this initiative, and advocate for the use of the framework in the formulation of relevant national plans on women and children's health.

▶▶ Advocate for rights-based family planning policy

In November 2013, the Chinese Government announced its decision to allow couples to have two children if one of the parents is an only child. Two years later in October 2015, it announced the adoption of a universal two-child policy in China.

In addition to the change in the fertility policy, the Government of China announced that it will strengthen and improve public services, including reproductive health, maternal and child health care, as well as nursery services.

These are steps which UNFPA hopes will lead to the fulfillment of the basic right of all couples and individuals in China to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing

of their children – a principle agreed on by all countries in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994.

UNFPA is committed to working with the Government of China to advance and strengthen the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of all Chinese people, especially those of women and young people. UNFPA will continue to work with national and international partners and academia to advocate for the revision and improvement of relevant laws and regulations on family planning to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

▶▶ Support midwifery profession development

Midwives, besides assisting women to deliver babies, contribute to essential primary and reproductive healthcare and can provide many of the needed interventions throughout pregnancy, birth and beyond.

In China, midwives are not regarded as a separate profession hence no advanced midwifery education exists. This is one of the reasons contributing to the excessively high rate of caesarean sections in China.

UNFPA has helped the government to strengthen midwifery services, education and training. UNFPA has worked with the China Maternal and Child Health Association (CMCHA) to advocate for the promotion of natural delivery and the creation of a midwife profession within the health system.

UNFPA will continue to facilitate policy dialogue towards the establishment of midwifery as a medical profession in the primary health care system in China, including through possible revision of national nursing regulations and formalization of midwifery education in line with international standards.



▶▶ Incorporate reproductive health commodity security in China's international and South-South Cooperation agenda

An estimated 225 million women in the world who want to avoid unwanted pregnancies, lack access to modern contraception.

Access to a reliable supply of contraceptives, lifesaving medicines and equipment is essential to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Without the right supplies at the right time, it will be impossible to protect reproductive health, prevent unintended pregnancies and strengthen health systems. Reproductive Health Commodity Security is achieved when all individuals can obtain and

use affordable, quality reproductive health commodities of their choice whenever they need them.

Reproductive health commodity security is identified by both UNFPA and its national partners as an important area in China's international and South-South Cooperation. UNFPA will facilitate exchanges among key stakeholders to address the gaps and challenges, with the aim of increasing the variety of quality products in developing country markets.

▶▶ Highlights of past achievements

Building blocks for a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy framework

During more than three decades of its presence in China, UNFPA has provided substantial support in promoting universal access to reproductive health, ranging from strengthening maternal and child health (MCH) services in the earlier years to responding to emerging SRH challenges.

Remarkable achievements in reducing Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in China

UNFPA has been supporting national efforts in maternal and child health care. In the earlier years, the assistance included basic technical training in the identification of high risk pregnancies and the provision of prenatal care. Heavy investment was put in enhancing grassroots level maternal and child health facilities. With support from UNFPA and other international agencies, China was one of the countries that met the MDG goal on the reduction of MMR (MDG 5a) one year ahead of the timeline.

Linkages promoted between HIV prevention and reproductive health

UNFPA strongly advocated for closer linkages between HIV and AIDS interventions and sexual and reproductive health care. The support has led to:

- National Framework for Strengthening the Linkage between HIV Prevention and Reproductive Health/Family Planning Services developed by National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) in 2009
- National HIV/STI/SRH intervention guideline targeting low income sex workers (2015)
- Greater involvement of community-based organizations led by sex workers

- An effective intervention model of HIV/STIs prevention among cross-border female sex workers and migrant workers in the China-Mongolia border areas
- Institutional support from China Railway Cooperation (former Ministry of Railways) to utilize the railway system to reach out to vast numbers of migrant workers with HIV prevention information and services

Improved maternal health among ethnic minorities in remote areas

In remote and mountainous areas in western China, low population density, rough terrain and poor transportation present challenges for ethnic minority communities to access maternal health services. UNFPA-supported projects in the provinces of Yunnan, Guangxi and Tibet yielded valuable experiences in mobilizing community-based support networks to ensure that every pregnant woman gets support from her community to access prenatal care and hospital delivery services. The pilot experience provided the national government with practical recommendations to improve maternal health in remote areas.

Integrating reproductive health in national emergency response plans

UNFPA introduced the first ever reproductive health response in China in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake in Sichuan in May 2008 which affected over 40 million people. Within the first three months of the disaster, UNFPA distributed reproductive health kits to 200,000 women to ensure safe delivery, and STI prevention and treatment.

UNFPA continued the efforts to advocate for the integration of the Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health (MISP) in the national emergency response

system and in selected disaster-prone counties. As a result, the provision of SRH services in emergency settings have been integrated into the emergency preparedness plans of the health and the Red Cross sectors in selected sites. The national Red Cross system has integrated the MISP package into its routine work, including the national first aid training and the national “Integrated Community Resilience Programme”.

In August 2014, MISP was implemented for the first time in the earthquake affected areas in Lu Dian County of Yunnan Province.

What is the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)?

The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) is a series of crucial actions required to respond to reproductive health needs at the onset of every humanitarian crisis. This set of life-saving activities forms the starting point for reproductive health programming and should be sustained with comprehensive reproductive health services throughout protracted crises and recovery.

The MISP aims to:

- Ensure an organization is identified to lead the implementation of the MISP;
- Prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence;
- Reduce HIV transmission;
- Prevent maternal and newborn death and illness;
- Plan for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, integrated into primary health care, as the situation permits.



Advocacy for improvement of family planning policy and programmes

Following the ICPD in 1994, UNFPA and the Chinese Government engaged in a dialogue regarding the approaches for China to fulfill its ICPD commitments. The Fourth Country Programme from 1998-2002 covering 32 counties supported introduction of a voluntary and client-centred approach in family planning service delivery. Service providers in these counties were trained in quality-of-care approach, with the emphasis on giving clients the opportunity to make informed choices of contraceptives.

The quality-of-care standards were expanded by the then National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) to over 800 additional counties by 2005. UNFPA's advocacy also led to the removal of birth-spacing requirements in selected pilot counties and in Jilin, Shanghai, Xinjiang, Gansu and Hainan provinces, bringing the provincial family planning regulations closer to the ICPD principles.

Starting from the seventh country programme (2011-2015), UNFPA put more emphasis on evidence-based advocacy to promote changes to the national family planning policy in line with ICPD through partnerships with the academia and government institutions.



Substantial progress on midwifery advocacy

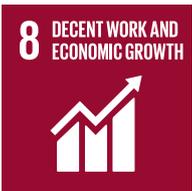
UNFPA and the China Maternal and Child Health Association (CMCHA) worked together to raise the awareness on the cost-effectiveness of investing in midwifery through policy review and advocacy events. UNFPA supported CMCHA and Peking University to develop a set of core competencies of midwives, which formed the basis for developing the national standards of midwifery qualifications and the midwife career pathway.



Enhanced national capacity in manufacturing safe and modern contraceptives

In the earlier years of UNFPA's presence in China, UNFPA invested heavily in the introduction of new manufacturing processes, quality control in contraceptive production, new technology and the training of personnel. By the mid-1990's, China became self-sufficient in the manufacturing of safe and modern contraceptives, and established contraceptive research institutes to design and conduct basic research and clinical trials on contraceptives.

Adolescents and Youth



Young people are at the center of development. Healthy, educated, productive and fully engaged young people can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and are more resilient in the face of individual and societal challenges. A sustainable future cannot be achieved without investments in young people, including access to comprehensive sexuality education and quality sexual and reproductive health services.

The work in this area contributes to all SDGs, and particularly 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Adolescents and Youth

Key Facts and Figures in China



260
MILLION
Young People
(10-24) in 2014



UN definition

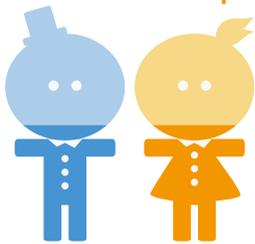
Youth: 15-24 years old

Young People: 10-24 years old

Adolescents: 10-19 years old

National Survey on Youth Access and Utilization of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Supported by UNFPA, 2009



60% Unmarried Youth
open to having sex before marriage



nearly **1/4** have had sex

over half of them did not use any contraceptive method during their first sex act

Reproductive health service needs

Demand for counselling failed **60%**

Demand for treatment failed **↑ 50%**

Main reasons: feeling embarrassed or problems not serious

< 5%

of youth were well informed about reproductive health



< 15%

had correct knowledge about preventing HIV infection



Female Youth Who Have Had Sex



> 20% unplanned pregnancies



91% of them resorted to abortion



The reported national HIV infected young students reached

7200

accounting for **1.4%** of the people living with HIV by the end of 2014



Abortions

About **half of the 13 million** abortions annually occur among young people





Objective

- Increased commitments by duty bearers to address young people's rights and needs in national and sub-national policies and programmes, in particular on life skills-based education and sexual and reproductive health services for unmarried and marginalized youth

Strategies:

The programme will provide advocacy and policy advisory services for:

- Designing and implementing in-school life-skills based comprehensive sexuality education (LSBE) pilots to inform a national programme on the same
- Promoting supportive policy environment to design and implement comprehensive programmes to address youth sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, with full youth participation
- Engaging youth in national and provincial participatory platforms to advocate for evidence-based and rights-based youth policies and programmes and increased investment in young people

▶▶ Life-skills based comprehensive sexuality education

What is comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)?

UNFPA defines CSE as a right-based and gender-focused approach to sexuality education, whether in school or out of school. CSE is curriculum-based education that aims to equip children and youth people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enable them to develop a positive view of their sexuality, in the context of their emotional and social development. CSE embraces a holistic vision of sexuality and sexual behavior, which goes beyond a focus on prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The essentials components of CSE includes:

- A basis in the core universal values of human rights
- An integrated focus on gender
- Thorough and scientifically accurate information
- A safe and healthy learning environment
- Linking to sexual and reproductive health services and other initiatives that address gender, equality, empowerment, and access to education, social and economic assets for young people
- Participatory teaching methods for personalization of information and strengthened skills in communication, decision-making and critical thinking
- Strengthening youth advocacy and civic engagement
- Cultural relevance in tackling human rights violations and gender inequality
- Reaching across formal and informal sectors and across age groupings

In various settings, sexuality education may go by other names, such as “life skills”, “HIV education”, “health education” etc. UNFPA and its partners will focus on life-skills based comprehensive sexuality education (LSBE) to include life skills for Chinese adolescents and youth to respond to specific challenges in the context of China.

In CP8, UNFPA will work with partners to advocate for life-skills based comprehensive sexuality education (LSBE), prioritizing the partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE) in a policy-oriented pilot to advocate for institutionalizing LSBE in the school curriculum. UNFPA will also support the development of a model that links school-based LSBE with community-based interventions and youth-friendly services. This pilot will put special focus on vulnerable and left-behind children and adolescents.

UNFPA will support:

- evidence-based advocacy on LSBE through dialogue, research and development of policy proposals on LSBE;
- advocacy to improve China's health education by introducing CSE policies and good practices from other countries;
- policy-oriented pilots of LSBE, through developing age-specific curricula, training of teachers, monitoring and evaluation, in selected province(s) to inform relevant national and sub-national policies.



Promote supportive policy environment to design and implement comprehensive programmes to address youth sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, with full youth participation

UNFPA China will work together with government agencies, in particular the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), and young people to advocate for evidence-based national policy and programme development to address sexual and reproductive health and rights issues of young people in China, with a focus on unintended pregnancies among young people.

Key strategies:

- Support policy research on young people's sexual and reproductive health to generate the evidence required for advocacy
- Support creative and innovative approaches to raise public awareness on the issue, including through traditional and social media, ambassadors, and with the active participation of young people themselves
- Facilitate policy dialogue for joint actions to prevent unintended pregnancies, including by contributing to a strengthened multi-sectoral coordination mechanism at national and sub-national levels
- Provide technical support to selected (sub)-national efforts and initiatives to prevent unintended pregnancies among young people, based on evidence and successful experiences of other countries

Engage youth in national and provincial participatory platforms to advocate for evidence-based and rights-based youth policies and programmes and increased investment in young people

Youth participation is central for youth development. Yet, worldwide, millions of youth are unable to participate fully in society. But when empowered and given the right opportunities, youth are effective drivers of change. UNFPA partners with young people, helping them participate in decisions affecting them, and strengthening their ability to advance their human rights in areas such as health, education and employment.

In China, UNFPA will continue to support national partners to strengthen youth participation in policy discussion and programmes related to youth issues, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people. UNFPA will facilitate various youth participation platforms to empower young people to take part in actions in young people's sexual and reproductive health and youth development.

▶▶ Highlights of past achievements

First UN agency to address youth sexual and reproductive health challenges in China

In 1998, UNFPA started to support national partners to address sexual and reproductive health challenges among youth in China. UNFPA, together with China Family Planning Association (CFPA), supported a pilot project in Beijing and Shanghai to explore effective ways to improve sexuality education among students. Following initial success, UNFPA has broadened its partnership with relevant government institutions, academia, media, the private sector, and with young people themselves, on youth sexual and reproductive health issues.

Supported the development of China Youth Network and youth participation

UNFPA's initial youth pilot with CFPA introduced peer education to empower young people with training in SRH knowledge and facilitation skills, so that they can pass on the knowledge to their peers. In 2004, with support from UNFPA and CFPA, a group of core peer educators formed the China Youth Network (CYN), a youth-led group committed to promote sexual and reproductive health issues among young people, policy makers and communities. CYN has grown into an important actor in youth participation in China. It is present in 200 universities with more than 3000 peer educators in China and has established linkages with other regional and global youth groups. It has played an active role in empowering young people to be part of the solution to tackle the challenges they face.





First national survey on youth sexual and reproductive health

With rapid economic development and changing social values, China's young people are facing increasing reproductive health risks, including unsafe sex, unplanned pregnancies, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. With support from UNFPA, and the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council (NWCCW), and Peking University, China's first national survey on youth access to reproductive health was conducted in 2009. The survey revealed that the huge gaps exist among youth in accessing sexual and reproductive health information and services. On the other hand, the majority of unmarried youth are open to having sex before marriage. The survey's findings have been widely quoted by national media and various other institutions. The research still remains the only national survey to date conducted on youth sexual and reproductive health in China.

Advocated for the provision of youth friendly services by the health sector

UNFPA advocates for efficient delivery of a holistic, youth-friendly health-care package of services. These include:

- Universal access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information;
- A range of safe and affordable contraceptive methods;
- Sensitive counselling;
- Quality obstetric and antenatal care for all pregnant women and girls; and
- The prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV

UNFPA has supported national partners to incorporate youth-friendly services in the health sector, including through training to service providers, and by developing national youth friendly service guidelines based on pilot experiences and international standards and good practices.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender equality is a human right. It is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty. Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for future generations.



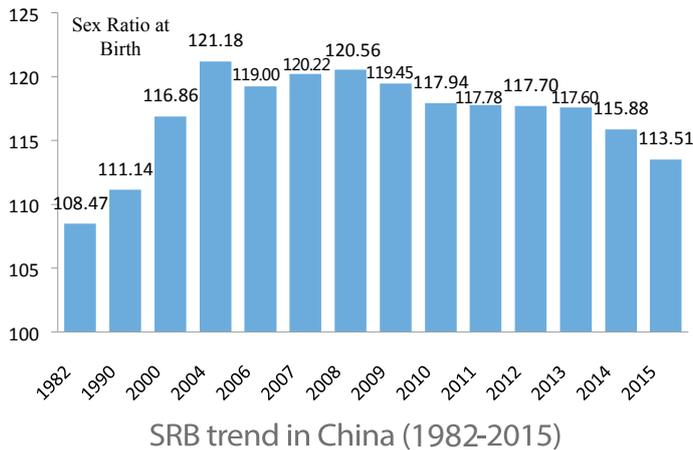
The work in this area contributes to SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

This Goal includes targets calling for the end of all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, and the elimination of all harmful practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-biased sex selection. It also calls for ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

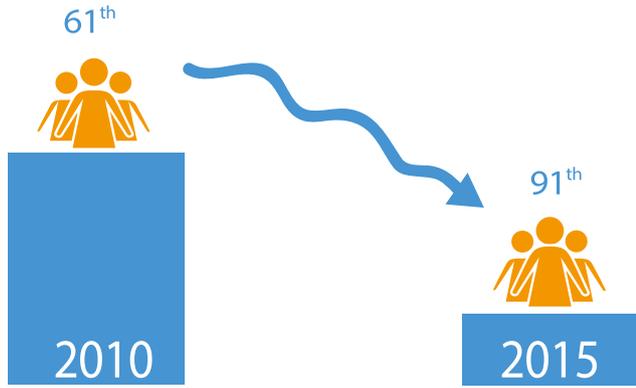
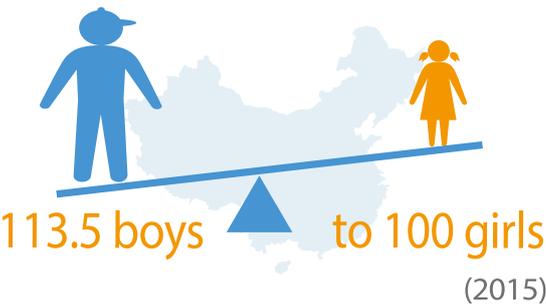


Gender

Key Facts and Figures in China

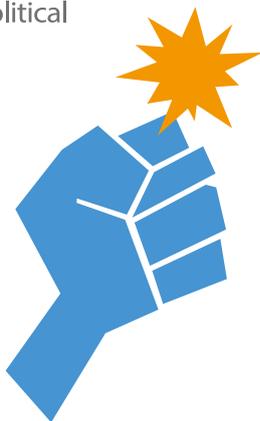


Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)
 number of males live births per 100 female live births.
normal range: 103-107:100

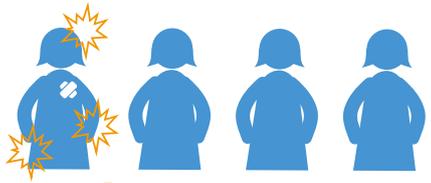


Global Gender Gap Index

benchmarks gender gaps on political, education, economic and health criteria. China has shown progress on economic participation, education, political empowerment, but not on health and survival due to the skewed SRB.



China's First National Family Violence Law effective on 1 March 2016



1/4 women have experienced abuse, assault, restriction of personal freedom, economic control, and/or forced sex during marriage (Third National Survey of Women's Social Status in China, 2010)



Objective

- Enhanced policy environment in selected provinces, cities and countries to promote positive norm change to address gender discrimination, gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices, such as gender-biased sex selection (GBSS)

Strategies:

- Strengthen policy environment to promote gender equality, prevent and respond to gender-based violence
- Advocate for effective policy response to address gender biased-sex selection (GBSS) and skewed sex ratio at birth (SRB)

▶▶ Preventing and responding to gender-based violence in China

China's first National Family Violence Law was adopted at the 18th Session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 27 December 2015, and entered into force on 1 March 2016.

The Law emphasizes the importance of prevention first, reporting and enforcement systems for dealing with family violence, and streamlining the processes and measures to protect those who experience family violence. Besides immediate family members, the Law covers unmarried couples that cohabit, thus addressing violence outside of traditional family settings.

The effective implementation of this law on prevention and timely response measures will require close coordination and joint actions among relevant departments.

In CP8, building on its previous experience and support to pilot GBV responses, UNFPA will support policy advocacy for implementation of the national legislation on family violence. UNFPA's strategies will include:

- Support the implementation of the new law by facilitating multi-sectoral mechanisms and sectoral implementation guidelines, in collaboration with the All China Women's Federation
- support policy research and studies to generate evidence to inform decision-making to prevent GBV
- engage public to promote positive gender norm changes through public engagement and working with media and the civil society

▶▶ Addressing root causes of gender-biased sex selection

Strong son preference, combined with the use of modern technologies and the drop of China's total fertility rate, has led to gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) resulting in persistently high skewed SRB. The consequences of a skewed SRB have had profound effects at the societal level as well as individual level, including a marriage squeeze, a large gender population gap, discrimination and violence against women, and violation of women and girls' rights.

UNFPA will continue to support the following interventions to address GBSS:

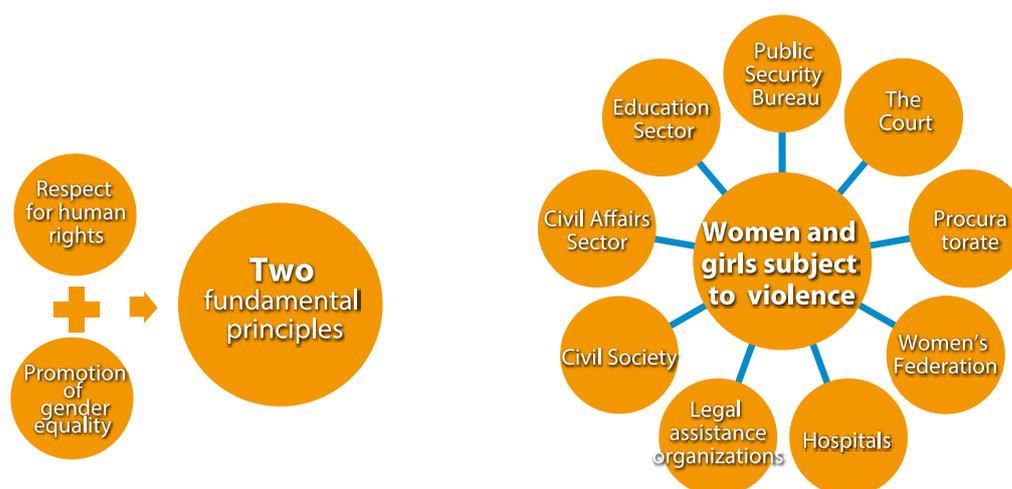
- Advocate and support strengthened multi-sectoral mechanism to address the imbalanced SRB in selected sites
- Provide technical assistance to strengthen evidence to inform policy making and effective implementation of these policies
- Step up policy advocacy efforts based on policy research on various aspects of GBSS and SRB in the context of changing policy environment and rapid social transition in China
- Support grassroots engagement in addressing the imbalanced SRB and address the root causes of GBSS, through media, social media, partnerships with private sector and the civil society
- Facilitate international exchanges and dialogue on experiences, lessons learnt, and good practices in addressing GBSS and the imbalanced SRB between China and other countries with similar challenges

▶▶ Highlights of past achievements

Advocacy support provided in the legislation process of the National Family Violence Law

UNFPA has worked with national and international partners, including the UN Theme Group on Gender, to advocate on the legislation of the National Law against Family Violence. In September 2014, UNFPA and All China Women's Federation (ACWF) organized a High Level Advocacy Forum on Eliminating Violence against Women. UNFPA also worked closely with other UN agencies through the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on joint advocacy efforts, such as supporting the international roundtable meeting and a close-door dialogue with the National People's Congress.

Multi-sectoral mechanism established in pilot counties to prevent and respond to GBV



In Liuyang County of Hunan Province and Chengde County of Hebei Province, UNFPA has supported the local governments to develop a multi-sectoral mechanism to prevent and respond to GBV. The experiences in the two pilot sites provide valuable reference to inform the implementation of the National Family Violence Law through multi-sectoral collaboration.

Highlights of the multi-sectoral system in Liuyang and Chengde:

- First counties to have county level legislation and policies on violence against women issued by the County People's Congress;
- Roles and responsibilities defined clearly and included in performance evaluations of respective agencies;
- Proactive response to GBV through joint review and assessment of high risk cases;
- Identification of women and girls subject to violence by the health sector to provide a first line support;
- Innovative approaches by the justice system to ensure safety of girls and women at risk ("protection order" issued by the Court, and "Written Warning" by the public security sector)
- A GBV database developed for improved client-friendly case management and close cooperation among sectors for efficient referral

Supporting evidence to understand the root causes of GBV

Key findings from a quantitative research on **Gender-based Violence**

based on a survey among 1017 men and 1103 women ages 18-49 in a county in central China

PREVALENCE RATE

reported by men who perpetrated & women who experienced violence



75%

of men who had admitted to rape did not face ANY legal consequences

86%

responded that their motivation for rape was **SEXUAL ENTITLEMENT***

* a belief that men have a right to have sex with a woman regardless of consent

Consequences

faced by women who experienced violence

40% of women who ever experienced physical violence were injured

and were

3x more likely to have CLINICAL DEPRESSION



2x more likely to have THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE

Women who experienced Intimate Partner Violence

4x more likely to have multiple Sexually Transmitted Infections

Factors relating to Sexual Violence

Violence is perpetrated at a much **YOUNGER** age than previously thought

Of men who perpetrated rape for the first time

NEARLY **1 out of 4** were **15-19** years old



GENDER INEQUALITY

the root cause of GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Perceived masculinity linking to dominance drives violence against women

of all men interviewed:

73%

Believed men should be tough

52%

Would use violence to defend their honor

72%

Think men have decision power over major issues within the family

To end gender based violence, we need to transform harmful social norms that perpetuate unequal gender power relations.

Designed by Rongjie Lu

In 2013, UNFPA supported the first quantitative and qualitative studies in China to find out why men use violence against women and girls. The research studies were part of a regional initiative, the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence - conducted in seven countries in Asia and the Pacific. The in-depth data and evidence, though not nationally representative, has informed subsequent policy dialogue and programming to prevent and respond to GBV in China, highlighting the need to engage men and boys as important players in the prevention of GBV. The research studies generated two comprehensive reports, namely Research on Gender-based Violence and Masculinities: Quantitative Findings and Hard Struggles in Times of Changes, a Qualitative Study on Masculinities and Gender-based Violence in Contemporary China.

Public engagement to promote positive gender norm changes

To address gender-based violence rooted in unequal power and discriminatory relations between men and women, men must be engaged. With support from UNFPA, the China White Ribbon Volunteers Network (CWRVN) was established in 2013 as part of the world's largest male-led movement to end violence against women and girls. CWRVN has mobilized support from different sectors to work as volunteers and provide Hotline (4000 110 391) counselling services to men who perpetrated violence and those who were inclined to commit acts of violence. CWRVN worked extensively with national and international media to raise awareness on gender-based violence. Up to now, CWRVN has built an extensive network of over 1000 registered volunteers across China.

UNFPA engaged with media, social media, and the private sector to deliver tailored advocacy messages and raise public awareness. While CCTV, Xinhua and other mainstream media outlets were engaged more to support policy advocacy, UNFPA utilized social media to promote non-violence culture among the public, especially among young people. The UNFPA-led social media campaign “Be the One Be Orange” attracted 36 million hits from netizens and collected numerous personal non-violence pledges within 6 months after its launch.

First international agency to campaign against sex selection in China

The results of the 1990 census in China showed that the sex ratio at birth (SRB) was 111.14 boys to 100 girls. UNFPA, as the leading UN agency on population issues, became the first international agency to raise the issue of SRB through research and policy dialogue, which was considered a taboo among the government officials at that time. UNFPA has continued its advocacy and community-based interventions ever since, and has helped to generate data and analysis on SRB in China.

Revision of village rules to address root causes of son preference

In 2008, with support from UNFPA and other partners, the Women Studies Centre of the Central Party School undertook a study to identify the root causes of the skewed sex ratio at birth in China. The study highlighted the traditional gender norms of son preference that are still deeply rooted in China, such as the idea of “having sons to secure old-age support” and “having sons to guarantee the continuity of the family lineage”. In some rural areas, discriminatory village regulations reinforcing traditional gender norms have contributed to the skewed sex ratio at birth. For example, many villages do not allow married or divorced women the same entitlements as other villagers, such as rights to own land.

Changes in Jing'an County, Jiangxi Province

The SRB in Jing'an was as high as 123.5 in 2010 and it went down to 119 in 2013. The village rule revisions have led to positive norm changes in Jing'an:

- Increase of non-traditional patriarchal marriages patterns with more than 20 cases of men marrying into wives' households after the launch of the project
- Increase of girls and women being listed in the family history records in various forms, with daughters' names on the family tomb stones, and women's names allowed to appear on the tomb stones of the deceased husbands
- Increase of women being registered as the heads of households in various documentations, including the household registrations, rural land contracts and rural house construction certificates
- Increase of girls named after their mothers, with the diversified naming convention
- Increase of girls and women allowed to arrange and host family funerals



The research led to UNFPA-supported pioneering grassroots level interventions initiated in 2011, to revise the gender discriminatory village rules and regulations in Anhui, Shaanxi and Jiangxi Provinces in China. As a result breakthrough initiatives to empower women with more gender-equitable terms were included in the village rules.

Enabling gender-sensitive policy making through gender training among officials

In order to reach long-term impact and curb gender-biased sex-selection, UNFPA has supported gender sensitization among policy makers. Training institutions for government officials, known as “Party Schools”, have included gender training in curricula for local officials. Over 10,000 officials at various levels in the pilot counties received gender training. Such training, together with other measures, has enabled county level officials to advance gender equality in their daily work and decisions.

Pathway to advance gender equality in Changfeng County

A number of bold steps led by the Changfeng County government has made the county a “good practice” site in promoting gender equality and curbing SRB with recognition from the national government and mainstream media.

Changes led by the Changfeng County Government:

- Establishment of a project leading group, comprising of members from 21 sectoral departments, and headed by the County Mayor.
- Issuance of Project Implementation Guidelines and a monitoring plan for all involved sectors
- Increased proportion of female cadres at different levels
- Commitments to provide matching funds to the project, with RMB 500,000 allocated annually
- Revised rules and regulations in 45 villages and communities
- Adoption of a number of gender-sensitive measures to address traditional gender norms, such as encouraging the practice of naming children after mothers to remove pressures to have boys to continue family lineages

Population dynamics

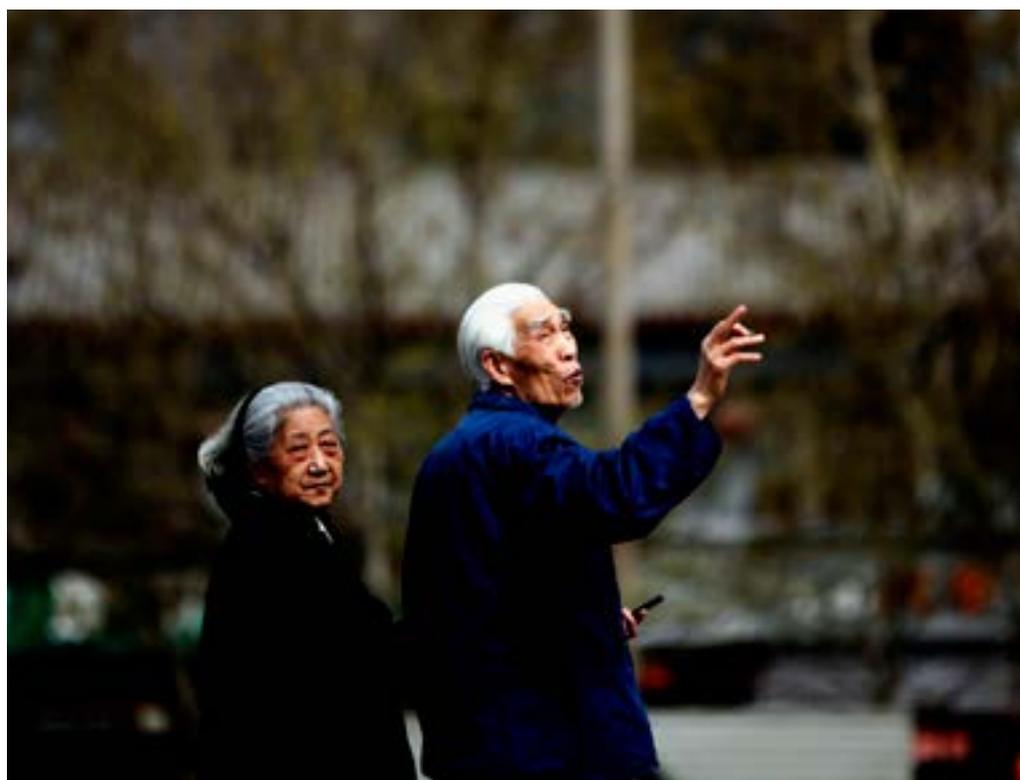
Good policymaking requires reliable and disaggregated data about people. Government policies that promote development and reduce poverty are more likely to succeed if they take into account population dynamics. Policies guided by reliable population data can lead to equitable access to essential social services by vulnerable groups.



The work in this area contributes to all the SDGs, and particularly Goal 10 and 11.

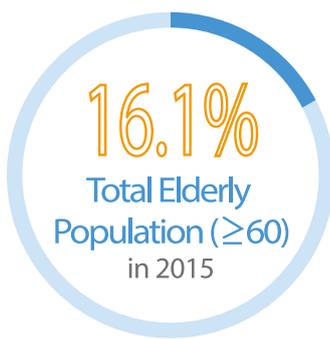
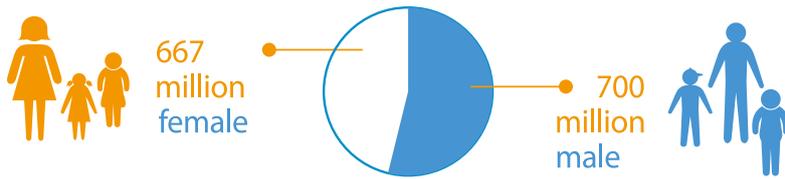
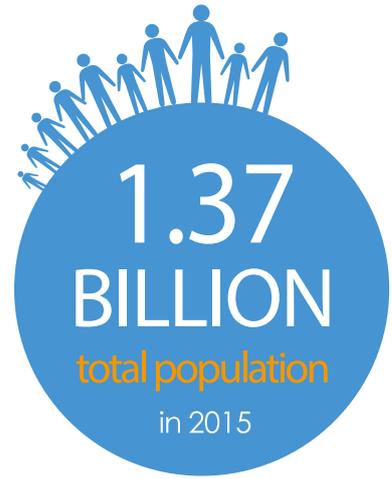
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Population Dynamics

Key Facts and Figures in China



1.18 Total Fertility Rate

2010 National Census

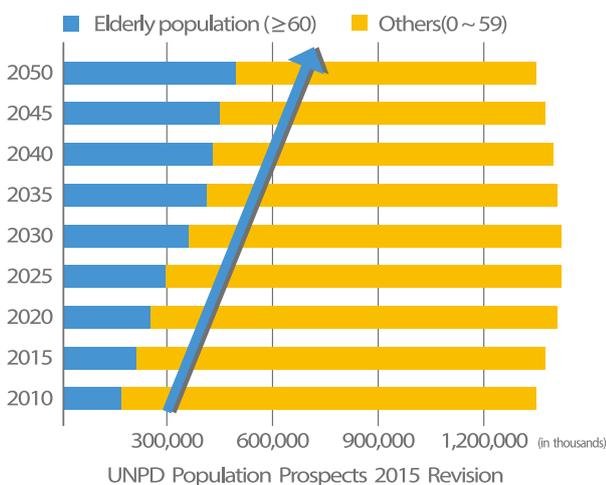
estimated number of children a woman would have during her lifetime, given current age-specific fertility rates



>50% 780 million



Over half of the population live in urban areas in 2015



Domestic Migrant Population

247 million



in 2015



Objective

- Increased use of evidence based analysis of population dynamics for the development of rights-based national and sub-national policies, strategies and plans targeting young people, women, the elderly and populations in vulnerable situations

Strategies:

- Promote data for population and development
- Support rights-based development plans to ensure equitable access to essential services, including sexual and reproductive health, among migrants, women, youth and the elderly
- Promote equitable and healthy ageing

▶▶ Promote data for population and development

In collaboration with the National Statistics Bureau, UNFPA will continue to support production and dissemination of high quality disaggregated socio- demographic data on population and development. The increased availability of population data will be used to support the reporting on national and international development goals, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNFPA will facilitate South-South Cooperation in the area of data for development, supporting other developing countries in generating, analyzing and utilizing data.

▶▶ Support rights-based development plans to ensure equitable access to essential services, including sexual and reproductive health, among migrants, women, youth and the elderly

Rights-based national and sub-national plans are essential to ensure older persons, youth, women, migrants and other vulnerable groups have equal rights and opportunities to benefit from and contribute to the national development process. In collaboration with National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and China Population and Development Research Center of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, UNFPA will provide technical assistance and inputs to:

- the implementation of the 13th National Five-Year Plan on Social and Economic Development (2016-2020), particularly on population and development
- the formulation of National Medium/Long Term Population and Development Plan (2016-2030)
- the establishment of socio-demographic databases in order to analyse population trends and inform policy making
- the development planning in selected cities based on changing population dynamics of groups affected by migration, urbanization and ageing, to ensure equal access to social services, particularly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and maternal and child health (MCH) services by women, youth, migrants and older persons

▶▶ Promote equitable and health ageing

The growth of the ageing population in China comes at a time in which a large scale rural to urban migration is taking place, undermining the traditional family support system and revealing a multitude of challenges to equitable ageing process. To ensure the older persons enjoy the benefits of development equally with other population groups and among various segments of themselves, UNFPA will promote equitable and healthy ageing, mainly through:

- technical assistance to the planning, implementation and review of the 13th Five Year Plan on Ageing led by the China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA)
- technical assistance to the development of the National Strategy on Ageing led by NDRC
- support analysis of population ageing in China
- support the use of innovative approaches, in particular ICT technology, in old age care system and services

▶▶ Highlights of UNFPA's past achievements in promoting data for development in China

Strengthening national capacity in population and development studies

Ever since its presence in China, UNFPA has invested heavily to support national capacity development in population studies. In the late 1970s, China's relative isolation from international social science research had created a serious shortage of skilled demographers and statisticians. UNFPA's assistance helped to revive demographic studies in China in line with the latest international developments in this field.

Over the years, UNFPA supported the establishment of 23 research institutions on population and development, including the China Population and Development Research Center, and the population research institutes affiliated to the China Academy of Social Sciences and leading Chinese universities. UNFPA supported the advanced studies of over 400 Chinese scholars in demography and related disciplines. Many of these scholars have grown into leading demographers in China, providing evidence-based policy recommendations to the Chinese government in population and development.

First modern population census in 1982

UNFPA was the first international agency to extend its support to the State Statistical Bureau, later renamed to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The financial and technical support from UNFPA allowed for the third national population census in 1982 to employ contemporary electronic data-processing techniques for the first time. This first modern census revealed that China's population had reached 1.008 billion. Subsequently, UNFPA's support to the NBS was more focused on improving dissemination and utilization of the census data. In recent years, UNFPA supported NBS to explore online census options for possible use in future census taking.



Increased availability and utilization of disaggregated data

UNFPA has supported the national statistical system to strengthen its capacity to generate and utilize reliable disaggregated data. Disaggregated data by sex, age, region and ethnicity has been generated and utilized to inform development planning. They have been used to report on the national and international goals and frameworks, such as the national Five-Year Social and Economic Development Plan, National Plan of Action on Women and Children, the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Sample publications from the collaboration:

- Women and Men in China Series (2008 and 2012): based on annual administrative data and the mini-census data
- China Population and Development Report (2009) From ICPD to MDG: A Review for China at 15 Years (1994-2009)
- Women and Men in selected Provinces (Sichuan, Yunnan, Anhui, Xinjiang and Tianjin) in 2012
- Statistics on Women and Children in China (2013, 2014 and 2015)
- Facts and Figures Series on various topics, including Sex Ratio at Birth (2007), Domestic Migrants in China (2010); Monitoring of the National Programme of Action for Women and Children (2001-2010); Population Ageing in China (2013)



Advocacy for equitable access to essential social services for populations affected by urbanization

During 2009-2014, UNFPA worked on urbanization initiatives together with the NDRC and the China Center for Urban Development's (CCUD). The collaborative efforts aimed at extending the coverage of essential social services to urban dwellers, in particular incoming migrants and local farmers, who had no access to social services because of their lack of urban household registration. The pilot in four cities has informed the development of an urbanization strategy research paper entitled "Providing Social Services to Residential Population in Cities: Policy Options to Promote Healthy Urbanization in China", jointly launched by UNFPA and NDRC in 2014. The strategy called for equal access to opportunities for development and access to basic social services by all residential population in cities to allow all Chinese people benefit from urbanization.

Support to the formulation of the 13th Five Year Plan on National Economic and Social Development on the issues related to population and development

Together with the Department of Social Development of the NDRC, UNFPA supported a review of priority population and development issues in China in the coming five years (2016-2020). The review provided a comprehensive analysis followed by recommendations for future policy changes and interventions. The findings have provided useful inputs to drafting the relevant sections of the 13th National 5-Year Plan on Social and Economic Development in 2015.

Policy awareness on population ageing

UNFPA's support to ageing dates back to early 1980s when China undertook its first research project on ageing. In recent years, UNFPA stepped up its support to ageing in response to the speed and scale of the ageing process, through policy engagement and supporting policy research on ageing. In the 12th National Five Year Plan on Ageing (2011-2015), strengthening the partnership with UNFPA on ageing was enlisted as one of the 11 major tasks in the national response to ageing. UNFPA has been invited to support the development of the 13th National 5-Year Plan on Ageing.

Partnerships to advocate and communicate on population and development issues

In recent years, UNFPA has established partnerships with media organizations, social media platforms and the private sector on communications initiatives to jointly advocate on key population and development issues. UNFPA has engaged CCTV, Xinhua, the Paper and other media outlets to engage in the discussions on population policies in response to the evolving population dynamics. In 2015, UNFPA launched the Population and Development Series with the China Media Foundation affiliated to the Caixin Media Group. The first Seminar on Youth and Innovation: From a Gender Perspective was held with support from Caixin, and Yale Beijing Center in October 2015.



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