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2012 Annual Report

UNFPA CHINA

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund,

works to deliver a world where
every pregnancy is wanted,
every birth is safe,
every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Cover Photo

Youth representative at the first national peer educators training camp
By Guo Tieliu

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Foreword

2012 is the second year of the five-year cycle of UNFPA's seventh cooperation programme in China. The year witnessed several endeavours from UNFPA and government counterparts to improve effectiveness and efficiency in programme implementation. Annual work plans were prepared and implemented in line with the blue print set out in the Country Programme Action Plan signed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and UNFPA in 2011. This Annual Report presents snapshots of highlights achieved in the implementation of these work plans together with our partners in 2012.

With a commitment to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled, UNFPA continues to focus on efforts leading to universal access to reproductive health. This includes advocating for improved reproductive health policy, strengthening maternal health services in remote ethnic areas, promoting youth sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of HIV. Significant progress was made in several pilot interventions, which have the potential to be scaled up with further support from government counterparts.

China's population dynamics are complex and require comprehensive social and economic policies. UNFPA was invited to participate in government-led policy related discussions in preparation for such comprehensive policies that respond to the complex population dynamics caused by migration, urbanization and ageing.

Reliable population data are an essential prerequisite in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure that everyone counts. UNFPA continues to support capacity building efforts of the national statistics system to generate, analyse and use disaggregated data. Furthermore, together with other partners, UNFPA engaged with the National Bureau of Statistics to perform in-depth analysis of the data from the Sixth National Population Census (2010) data sets. These are expected to lead to an updated series of the UNFPA-China publication "Facts and Figures" on youth, ageing and sex ratio at birth.

Gender, as a cross-cutting issue, threads through all the programmes in UNFPA's work in China. In addition, UNFPA works directly in two specific gender related areas, namely sex ratio at birth and gender-based violence. These issues are addressed through the lens of human rights and reproductive health. In these areas, UNFPA works through multi-sectoral mechanisms involving various stakeholders including government agencies, academia and civil society.

Another cross-cutting issue under the present country programme concerns international cooperation by China with other countries, with a particular interest in the cooperation of China with other developing countries.

Next year UNFPA will undertake a strategic review of its work in China. In mid-2013, an external review is being planned to enable us to prioritize areas of attention in alignment with the new global strategic plan of UNFPA (2014-2017). The process will also be informed by the inputs from various stakeholders, as well as the outcomes of the global International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 review and discussions on the post- Millennium Development Goals agenda.

I wish to thank the Ministry of Commerce in China for its overall coordination and support for the 7th Country Programme and UNFPA China operations in general. I also wish to thank all our national partners for the fruitful collaboration in 2012 and look forward for a successful implementation in 2013.



Mr. Arie Hoekman
UNFPA Representative to China



Provide reproductive health services to migrant workers
By Li Baojun

Universal Access to Reproductive health

Everyone has the right to enjoy reproductive health, which is the basis for having healthy children, intimate relationships and happy families.

Reproductive health encompasses key areas of the UNFPA vision – that every child is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Investing in sexual and reproductive health is one of the most effective ways to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNFPA works to improve the reproductive health of population groups that are less able to access quality services and more prone to threats from unsafe sex and HIV. These include young people, migrants, and people living in remote areas.



Training for grassroots maternal health workers in Yunnan
By Chen Jianzhong

Gaps and challenges in achieving universal access to reproductive health in China

- Although China has made tremendous progress in maternal and child health and other related areas, further policy improvements are needed in order to ensure universal access to reproductive health, especially for those groups that are more vulnerable and at risk, including migrants, ethnic minorities and young people. In addition, the country has been experiencing complex population dynamics caused by a fast ageing process and mass migration from the countryside to the urban areas and from the west and central regions to the east coast. Comprehensive population policies are required to address these issues. The policy improvements related to reproductive health, including family planning, and additional policies in response to the complex population dynamics should be in line with the international commitments endorsed by 179 governments at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, Cairo, 1994).
- Monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health service delivery system and policy analysis needs to be strengthened.
- Reducing regional gaps is a key challenge in improving maternal health in China for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While the MDG target for maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has already been achieved in the eastern part of the country, the western part of China still lags behind. In 2010, MMR in the western region was 2.5 times of that in the eastern region.
- Family planning services have traditionally focused on married couples. As a result, the sexual and reproductive health needs of unmarried young people, especially those between 15-24 years of age, remain largely unmet in China.
- Basic Essential Obstetric Care skills at the township level and Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) at the township and county level need to be further improved.
- Skilled birth attendance is not provided to women who have to deliver at home due to economic, geographical and cultural constraints in accessing hospitals for delivery.
- Midwifery is not recognized as a profession in the healthcare system.
- Sexual and reproductive health issues need to be adequately addressed in China's humanitarian emergency response.

UNFPA China assists the Government of China to respond to the gaps and challenges in reproductive health in the areas of policy advocacy, strengthening midwifery education, exploring models of HIV prevention among vulnerable groups, promoting youth sexual and reproductive health information and services and improving maternal health among ethnic groups.

2012 Highlights

Working with and for young people to help them realize their potential

Young people have the potential to drive development. Efforts must be taken to ensure young people are healthy and have access to education, including comprehensive sexuality education, so they may understand how to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and other health risks, and have the knowledge to make informed decisions.

In 2012, to advocate for efforts for provision of contraceptives to the unmarried population, especially young people, UNFPA supported the National Population and Family Planning Commission to conduct a survey on the feasibility of making free contraceptives available to the unmarried population. According to the research, in the three pilot project sites surveyed, the needs for contraception and reproductive health are largely unmet. The research recommends that the government should create a better policy environment to ensure access of sexual and reproductive health services to unmarried young people and to allocate more funding to provide such services. Based on the existing distribution

networks, new appropriate channels should be developed to improve the accessibility of young people to free contraceptives. Pilot distribution and awareness raising activities were conducted in the pilot sites.

UNFPA works in China on policy development on youth sexual and reproductive health, and promotes a minimum standard package of youth friendly services in general hospitals, as well as sexual and reproductive health information and education in community based youth centres. We encourage youth participation in voicing their needs to policymakers and service providers.

Working with youth is particularly emphasized in UNFPA's work on youth sexual and reproductive health. Partnering with the China Family Planning Association (CFPA) and the youth-led China Youth Network (CYN), UNFPA continues to promote meaningful participation of young people as the driving force for change in improving sexual and reproductive health information and services for young people. In 2012 UNFPA-supported youth representatives from China participated in the Youth Coalition Regional Advocacy workshop in Bangkok, World AIDS Conference in Washington DC and Global Youth Forum in Bali.



◀ Youth volunteer teaching participatory training methods By Li Baojun

It's Fun to Talk About Sex

—Snapshots of the First National Peer Educators Training Camp in China

SHENZHEN, China—"HIV is so close to us," said Xiao Liu, a student from Chongqing City in China's southwest. "HIV hit a close friend of mine when he had sex for the first time at his 19-years birthday. He can't be here today because he can't expose his HIV-positive status. But he asked me to say to you that HIV is one of the risks that we are all confronting."

Xiao Liu shared this story with other young people participating in the first national peer educators training camp.

At the beginning of the summer, 60 young people from all over China gathered in Shenzhen to attend the first national peer educators training camp. They wanted to become qualified and passionate peer educators to spread messages on sexual and reproductive health among their peers. All of them were all very excited and curious to be in this workshop, which would focus on "sex", a topic that is not openly discussed in China.

With changing social values, Chinese youth have been exposed to increasing reproductive health risks, including unsafe sex, unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections including HIV. An UNFPA-supported national survey conducted in China showed that even though the majority of unmarried youth are open to having sex before marriage, only a very small portion of them—less than 5 per cent, are well informed about reproductive health. Less than 15 per

cent had correct knowledge about preventing HIV infection.

China Youth Network (CYN), a Beijing-based student volunteers group supported by UNFPA China and China Family Planning Association (CFPA), shouldered the responsibilities of recruiting participants, designing and preparing the training programme, and dialoguing with their sponsoring agencies. Their core members also acted as trainers and facilitators of most sessions. The tireless trainers and trainees demonstrated that it can be fun to talk about "sex" and to talk about it "seriously".

With almost all training sessions carefully planned in the form of edutainment, this group hardly needed any energizer to keep the highest level of energy throughout the week. Taking correct use of condoms as an example, "condom relay game" and mock outreach sessions ensured everyone got involved. Even in the evenings, the participants were engaged with group works that were both entertaining and educational. The Fun Sports evening was made an Olympics of games that could be linked to sexual and reproductive health.

Thanks to the efforts of China Family Planning Association, a group of youth programme officers from its local branches all over China were invited to attend selected sessions together with the young people. Sitting at the same tables, the guest



Workshop participants
By Guo Tieliu

adult participants were amazed at learning from the younger ones through role play and games, including how to communicate with young people, how to plan, operate and monitor youth programmes with young people's involvement, and how to retain youth volunteers.

"Everyone is so proud of being the alumni of the first national training camp," said Liu Chennan, a veteran CYN volunteer and the lead facilitator of the camp. A national network has already been formed, in the real world and virtually through social media connections. "They have appointed among themselves key responsible persons to monitor progress of volunteering after the workshop," said Liu, before the end of the training. "I am sure they will keep the momentum going."

Improving maternal health in remote ethnic minority areas

To improve maternal health among ethnic minorities in China's less-developed western region, UNFPA, the Ministry of Health and other national partners selected six pilot counties in Guangxi, Tibet and Yunnan. Different intervention models are being tested to respond to specific needs and local cultural contexts in the project sites. It is hoped that the lessons learned from these pilots will help reduce regional disparities in achieving MDG 5 on maternal health.



▲ Young Tibetan couple and their new born baby
By Chen Jianzhong

Piloting Community Maternal Health Care to Save Mothers' Lives in Tibet

GYAMDA COUNTY, Tibet, China— Xi're Qunzong is one of two designated health workers at Niangu Township hospital, with the responsibility of ensuring that no woman dies from giving life. She serves a community of 2,800 people living in eight scattered villages, the furthest taking up to six hours to reach.

A stressful experience last June still lingers in her mind. A young man on a motorbike came to ask for urgent assistance for his wife who was in delivery in the summer pasture of Ba'a village 30 kilometres away. Xi're rode with the man, carrying a basic delivery

kit. When they arrived over an hour later she found the woman in critical condition from severe hypertension.

No time to wait, she decided to take the woman back to the hospital. The woman's husband pushed the bike while Xi're walked alongside holding high an intravenous drip. They walked for two hours in heavy rain before reaching a point where they could be picked up by a car. Fortunately, the woman delivered her baby safely after arriving at the hospital.

Xi're became a "village doctor" (grassroots health worker) after graduating from middle school five

years ago. She knows what she does can be a matter of life and death.

Training to gain confidence

Xi're considers herself lucky since her hospital was selected as a pilot in Gyamda County to explore community-based maternal health service models. Run by China's Ministry of Health with support from UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, the project aims to improve access to quality services for Tibetan women in the area, contributing to a larger programme on improving maternal health in the country's western region.

Soon after the launch, the project organized a tailored training for township doctors on safeguarding the lives of woman and children. The curriculum was adapted to focus on the scenarios Xi're and her colleagues typically encounter, including performing basic antenatal care without ultrasound equipment, identifying high-risk pregnancies, and deciding when a patient needs referral.

"Besides the basic delivery kit, I should have brought oxygen with me when I rushed to Ba'a pasture that day," she states. "I would have felt less stressed if I had such training before."

Exploring safe delivery models for the local context

The national Government has implemented preferential policies in Tibet, including 100 per cent coverage of hospital delivery costs for rural Tibetans and additional financial subsidies for people with economic constraints.

These measures have helped to raise hospital delivery rates in Tibet from 20 per cent in 2000 to 62 per cent in 2011, but disparities still remain. In Niangpu Township, the average hospital delivery rate is around 58 per cent.

Training in basic essential obstetric care is far from enough to meet

local needs. The semi-nomadic population is scattered across a vast spread of land. A shortage of helping hands and a lack of transport for journeys that can take four to five hours travel on rough roads make it impossible for women to seek antenatal care during pregnancy or to go for hospital delivery. The project has initiated community networks to allow people like Xi're to mobilize support from village head, "village doctors", women's cadres, and in some cases religious leaders when she needs.

The Ministry of Health's national Maternal Care Management Guideline issued in 2011 addresses the challenges nomadic Tibetans face. In addition to promoting hospital delivery, the guideline allows the option of home delivery by certified medical staff or midwives. This will provide space for exploring diversified safe delivery models that suit the local context, with support from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health.



▲ Xi-re takes the blood pressure of one of her clients, by Chen Jianzhong

Other key highlights in promoting universal access to reproductive health:

- Following an upstream approach for policy change, UNFPA China was engaged in dialogue with the governmental authorities at the national and provincial levels to promote compliance of their policy making with the ICPD principles. In May 2012, UNFPA supported a seminar on improvement of the population and family planning policies with the participation of the policy makers from the National Population and Family Planning Commission and the provincial commissions of Heilongjiang, Jilin, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Chongqing and Guangdong Provinces. UNFPA presented the demographic situation in the developed countries with low fertility and their related social policies. UNFPA argued that China was much likely to face the similar situation in the future and made the case for revisiting China's current population policy to help couples to fulfill their wish to have children in line with the ICPD and for considering forward-looking polices to accommodate the country's rapid demographic change.
- China does not have the profession of midwife in its health system and it does not have systematic education for preparing midwives either. At present, only a few medical education institutions are providing post-secondary and undergraduate midwifery education, and there are no midwifery education standards. With support from UNFPA, the Chinese Maternal and Child Health Association and the Health Department of Hunan Province started initiatives in 2012 to establish a formal midwifery education up to university level and conduct advocacy for recognition of midwives as a profession in the health system in the province. It is expected that the experience of Hunan can be scaled up in the future.



◀ Welcome to the world
By Guo Tieliu

- In order to include reproductive health and gender-based violence elements in the existing emergency policies and strategies, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health and Red Cross Society of China in building national capacity to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in humanitarian settings. Trainings on MISP were provided to local health professionals and Red Cross volunteers in 4 counties in Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan. After the training, national and local partners conducted a simulation using MISP in each county, key findings of which will form the basis for developing contingency plans in 2013.
- Together with National Centre for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention under the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross Society of China and the Ministry of Railways, UNFPA works to strengthen the integration of HIV and sexual reproductive health services targeting vulnerable groups, including female sex workers and migrant workers. With funding from the Luxemburg Government, together with Red Cross Society in Mongolia, UNFPA launched cross-border collaboration on HIV prevention among female sex workers, mobile traders, truck drivers and miners along Sino-Mongolia borders. Behaviour change interventions were carried out among the target populations and capacity building activities were conducted among service providers in various sectors.



▶ HIV prevention among migrant workers, Photo by NPFFC



▲
Migrant workers back to Beijing after Spring Festival
By Fan Jiashan
Selected from 7 Billion Action Photo Contest

Population and Development

Good policymaking requires reliable data about people.

Information and knowledge about growth, movement, structure, living conditions and spatial distribution of a country's population are vital for policy formulation, programme development and implementation, planning of all public services and monitoring and evaluation. It also forms the key to decision making for virtually all types of individual and service oriented businesses.

Government policies that promote development and reduce poverty are more likely to succeed if they are guided by or take into account population trends and dynamics, such as ageing trends, the rate of urbanization or the change in life expectancies. UNFPA China works with government institutions to help integrate population dynamics into policy-making and the development of poverty reduction plans. In addition, UNFPA supports studies on links between urbanization, gender and reproductive health.



Data for development

Everyone counts and everyone should be counted.

With unparalleled continuously high national economic growth over the past decades, China has achieved many important development goals when measured by national aggregate averages. However, while the national averages of many social and economic indicators have improved, the disparities among different segments of the population – between the sexes, between age groups, between migrants and non-migrants, or between different regions and areas – have widened. Appropriate data is needed.

UNFPA together with UNICEF continues to support the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and its sub-national branches to strengthen its capacity to collect and generate disaggregated and reliable data to be used for national development planning and monitoring and for reporting national attainments to internationally agreed goals and frameworks, such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

2012 Highlights

- Jointly with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in-depth monographic census analysis was conducted based on the full data set of the Sixth National Population Census conducted in 2010. In addition to comprehensive and technical analysis for researchers, the collaboration will also result in an updated series of facts and figures publications in reader-friendly format for wider audiences on important population issues such as ageing, youth and sex ratio at birth. These results will serve as valuable data sources for referencing in policy-making and interventions.
- In collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, Devinfo Lab and UNICEF, UNFPA supported training on Censusinfo for the 2010 national population census for the National Statistics Bureau. Participants from the national statistical system generated census data sets from national to county levels in Censusinfo format. This makes it possible to disseminate China's national census data in a user-friendly format for wider audiences, including the general public. Moreover, the use of the CensusInfo format will help China to better share population data with other countries.
- UNFPA together with UNICEF, supported a training workshop on generating and utilizing sex and age-disaggregated data for staff from national and provincial statistics bureaus. Conducted by the UN Statistical Institute of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the training provided international thinking on sex and age-disaggregated data and presented good practices from Japan. In 2012, Women and Men in China and three provincial booklets on Women and Men (Yunnan, Xinjiang and Shanxi) were published.



▲ 2012 publications on sex-disaggregated data supported by UNFPA China



▲
7 Billion Day in Hohhot
By North News
Selected from 7 Billion Action Campaign

Urbanization and Migration

According to the latest national population census in 2010, the urbanization rate defined as a proportion of the population living in urban areas of China for more than six months had reached 49.7 per cent, an increase by 13.5 percentage points compared to 2000. In 2011 the rate reached 51.27 per cent, marking a historical moment in China's history where over half of the population now live in cities and towns.

UNFPA started to work on urbanization in China with the National Reform and Development Commission in 2009, aiming to extend the coverage of social services to the most affected population, especially incoming migrants who have already been counted as the urban population but have not obtained local urban household registrations (known as Hukou), which is the basis to access many social services in China. Through research and piloting,

models and policy options are being proposed to ensure equal access to essential social services by all groups affected in the urbanization process and to facilitate healthy development of urbanization in China.

Over the years, UNFPA had supported pilot initiatives in Zhengzhou City in Henan Province, Jinan District of Tianjin City, Yanta District of Xi'an City in Shaanxi Province and Changshu City of Jiangsu Province. The four sites are varied in sizes and development levels and the pilot aims to explore policy options to provide equitable social services, ranging from housing, education, health, social security and social assistance. Milestone achievements have been the establishment of a migrant information system, generating innovative thinking on household registration (hukou) reforms, and improving access of migrant children to schooling and to comply with compulsory education, etc.

Ageing

The accelerated ageing of the population in China calls for urgent actions to promote active and healthy ageing.

This ageing process is primarily the result of a drastic fertility decline from a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of over six in 1950 to below replacement level since the mid-1990s, as well as being increasingly due to a marked increase in life expectancy at older ages. The size of the ageing population in China is huge and the process is getting faster. By 2050, one in every four elderly people of the world will be Chinese. In China, it will require only 27 years to double the proportion of its population older than 65 from 7 per cent in 2000 to 14 per cent in 2027. The same process took 115 years in France and 85 years in Sweden.

Urgent actions will be needed to leverage the opportunities and overcome the challenges. Everyone must be involved, including governments,

civil society, communities, families and older persons themselves. All must develop a new culture in which older persons are considered active members of society and their contributions and rights are recognized and promoted.

Over the years, UNFPA has supported capacity building among academia and government to raise awareness on ageing, promote high-level policy dialogue and develop and implement evidence based policies to address the issue of ageing in China. The current focus is to improve the capacity of national partners to coordinate and manage the implementation of the national 12th Five-Year Plan on ageing, and to advocate for policy development of families coping with ageing in China. UNFPA also supports international exchanges on ageing and the engagement of the private sector in the effort to address challenges of ageing.



2012 Highlights

Symposium on “Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and a Challenge” held in Beijing

On the occasion of the Chinese National Day of Older Persons, a symposium entitled “Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and a Challenge” was organized in Beijing by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, HelpAge International and the China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA). Policymakers and experts from home and abroad called for urgent actions in order to seize opportunities and respond to the challenges of an ageing society both globally and in China.

According to the world’s global ageing report released by UNFPA and HelpAge International, which was also titled *Ageing in the Twenty-first Century: A Celebration and A Challenge*, the number of older persons is growing faster than any other age group. By 2050, the world’s over-60 population will be two billion people and larger than the under-15 population, and 80 per cent of the world’s older people will then live in what are now considered to be developing countries.

Population ageing is both an opportunity and a major challenge. “Harnessing the contributions a socially and economically active, secure and healthy ageing population can bring to societies will be key to seizing the opportunities. Strong political will and appropriate policies are needed to meet the increasing demands for income security, health and long-term care from the ageing population,” said Arie Hoekman, UNFPA Representative in China. He also stated that the demographic shift is a triumph of development – people live longer because of improved nutrition, sanitation, medical advances, health



UNFPA China Representative Mr. Arie Hoekman presenting Global Ageing Report at the symposium
By Zhou Ying

care, education and economic well-being.

Chen Chuanshu, President of CNCA introduced China’s policies and programmes on ageing. “Ageing in China is unprecedented in terms of scale, speed, complexity, and challenges,” Mr. Chen said at the event. By the end of 2011, China was home to 185 million people above 60, taking up to 13.7 per cent of the total population. By 2050, China’s ageing population will reach one third of the country’s total population, outnumbering the total ageing population of developed countries. “The Chinese government looks at ageing from a positive angle and national ageing strategies regard the elderly as active participants in the development process,” he said.

Eduardo Klien, Asia Regional Director from HelpAge International, said: “Global and national action plans are needed to create a pathway to transform the number of

people over 60 to become growth drivers and value creators. Older people make massive contributions to their society as workers, mediators, educators, volunteers, homemakers and care givers in addition to being sources of knowledge and guardians of culture.”

National experts from leading universities and institutions presented findings and recommendations from UNFPA-supported studies, all pointing out directions and opportunities to tap into the ever-growing ageing population and ever-accelerating ageing process. Findings of a review on China’s national attainments of international targets as set in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), which was endorsed in 2002 at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, were also presented at the event.



Happy Childhood
Recommended by Sohu
Selected from 7 Billion Action Photo Contest

Promoting Gender Equality

Unleashing the power of women and girls will accelerate progress on all fronts.

Together with its government partners and other partners including civil society, media and other UN agencies, UNFPA works in China to promote gender equality. Specifically UNFPA works to address gender-based violence and sex ratio at birth.

The Chinese Government emphasizes the great importance of gender equality and women's development, and has embraced equality between men and women as a basis of the national policy. But challenges remain. As China's Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals 2010 Report pointed out, China faces the key challenges in achieving MDG 3 to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

- Discrimination based on gender, age, and religion still exists in the labor market.
- The participation of women in public affairs and political life should be bolstered even further.
- Gender-based violence has serious consequences for women's health and significantly limits women's potential to participate fully in society.
- Rates of female suicide are high compared to those of men.
- China's sex ratio at birth (SRB) remains unbalanced.

Sex ratio at birth: key facts and challenges

As a result of persistence of the cultural tradition of son preference, the availability of technology for sex identification, and a rapidly declining fertility rate, an imbalance in sex ratio at birth (SRB) in China has grown continuously over the past 30 years, from 107.6 male live births per 100 females in 1982 to 120.5 in 2005, with a slight drop in 2010 to 117.94. The SRB in rural areas is significantly higher than that in urban areas. In rural areas, SRB reached 122.9 in 2005 and 122.1 in 2010. SRB is also rising rapidly in urban areas from 109.9 in 1990 to 117.1 in 2005 and even to 120.2 in 2010 (official data released from the State Council and the National Statistical Bureau in 2012).

High sex ratio at birth will lead to a female deficit and the imbalance of the sex structure of the population, which will have significant impacts on critical population and social issues such as population size, sex and age structure, population

ageing, and the marriage market balance. The female deficit may further impact the security and safety of women and girls, and their rights to participation and development may be denied. A skewed sex ratio may stimulate violence, abduction and a rise in trafficking of women and girls.

Challenging gender stereotypes against traditional son preference culture and practice is key to addressing sex ratio at birth. UNFPA supports community-based interventions on immediate responses to sex ratio at birth imbalances in three out of ten provinces with the highest SRB in the country. At the same time, UNFPA supports a more strategic, long-term advancement of gender equality through sensitization and advocacy activities with the Party Schools at central and sub-national levels, which are mandated to train government officials and policymakers at various levels.

▼ On the way to school By Liang Quankang



2012 Highlights

Changing Village Regulations to Fight Son Preference in China



Wall paintings of the revised village regulations in Zhoushan
By Gao Cuiling

ZHOUSHAN, Henan, China- After suffering pressure from her husband and father-in-law, Qiaofang eventually managed to have a son. The young mother already had two beautiful girls, but in China a combination of strong traditional values and community laws can influence families and women to do almost anything to have a son.

Qiaofang was “lucky” and her third child was a boy. However, the decision had health and economic consequences that she is still suffering today. “If the old regulations of my village had treated girls and boys equally, I would definitely not have chosen to have another child,” she says.

Qiaofang tells her story to a group of visitors interested in learning about her small village’s experience in attempting to tackle the root causes of son preference. The case of Zhoushan is

being studied by “party school” teachers who train government officials, with a hope of using the lessons learned here in other provinces with high imbalances in the sex ratio at birth (SRB), like Anhui, Jiangxi and Shaanxi.

Identifying root causes of son preference

In 2008, with support from UNFPA and others, the Women Studies Centre of the Central Party School undertook a study intended to show the root causes of skewed sex ratio at birth in China.

In interviews conducted by the research team, almost all the participants agreed to two commonly perceived benefits of having boys: to secure old-age support—sons rather than daughters are expected to provide support to their parents through their lives—and to guarantee the continuity of the family line—only sons

are able to carry on family names and inherit family properties.

These beliefs have shaped the cultural norms of Chinese society for thousands of years, and they are still strongly rooted today, affecting people’s behaviour in spite of many changes intended to promote gender equality at all levels.

In some rural areas discriminatory village regulations may be contributing to the skewed sex ratio at birth. For example, many villages don’t allow married or divorced women the same entitlements, such as rights to land, that other villagers enjoy.

To address this problem, village leaders in Zhoushan volunteered to take part in a pilot project to make regulations more gender equitable and change long-standing practices contributing to son-preference.

Creating the right atmosphere for changes

The first step was to create awareness and support from the villagers. With support from the local government, two weddings of men marrying into their wives' families were celebrated as the major events in the village with the presence of prominent figures from the city including officials.

Traditionally, village marriages are patrilocal - that is, the wife moves in with the husband's family. When it is the other way around, weddings are normally held quietly and unblessed because of the perceived lower status of women, and lower status of families without sons.

At these two reformed weddings in Zhoushan, the brides proudly welcomed their husbands into their homes. Neighbours were pleasantly surprised by the change from the traditional custom, and both brides and bridegrooms received heart-felt congratulations from the onlookers. The success in Zhoushan inspired several other villages in Henan province to tackle root causes of son preference, and led to a government-supported initiative in the nearby city of Dengfeng city.

"I never realized that my school could play a key role in facilitating such radical changes," said visitor Xiao Hong from the Shaanxi Party School. Having seen that party

Key breakthroughs achieved in the reform of village regulations in Zhoushan

In March 2009, with the support of researchers from the Central Party School and NGO workers from Henan Community Education Research Centre, residents of Zhoushan held serious discussions on the regulations that had governed their village for many years. These discussions led to breakthroughs in promoting more gender equitable terms in the revised regulations adopted by the villagers. The key positive changes include:

- Promoting women's participation in village affairs by mandating a minimum proportion of women in village leadership bodies.
- Promoting equal economic entitlements to anyone who is divorced or survives the death of a spouse, whether male or female.
- Promoting reform of the traditional patrilocal marriage pattern by respecting "freedom of marriage" and supporting weddings regardless of whether women are marrying into husbands' families or vice versa, and by allowing government support to funerals of daughter-only families.
- The revised regulation also include provisions promoting diversified old-age care, reform of conventions for naming children, and encouraging men to share household chores.

schools can act as a venue to promote gender awareness among both grassroots-level and senior officials, Ms. Xiao and the other observers were eager to integrate gender topics into their schools' training courses to influence government officials. The Central Party School will continue to advocate for inclusion of gender issues in the national party school curriculum.

Gender-based Violence

Every day, women and girls experience violence in the family, exploitation, sexual violence, trafficking, harmful traditional practices, including girl child abandonment or infanticide, and other forms of violence against their bodies, minds and human dignity. Violence against women is a major public health concern and a serious violation of basic human rights. It constitutes a life-long threat for hundreds of millions of girls and women worldwide.

According to the World Health Organization's Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women 2005, in most countries in the world more than 25 per cent of women have been physically or sexually assaulted at least once in their lives.

UNFPA works with the UN Theme Group on Gender, the All China Women's Federation, Ministry of Health and other partners in piloting community based responses to violence against women. To address the lack of reliable national data, UNFPA also supports research work with academia and civil society in order to generate and utilize reliable data on gender-based violence and provide evidence for effective policy advocacy and interventions. With support from UNFPA and Partners for Prevention, quantitative and qualitative research on masculinities and gender-based violence was conducted in China. As part of the multi-country research on men and gender-based violence supported by Partners for Prevention in Asia Pacific, the findings will be released in 2013 to inform policy advocacy and programming to engage men and boys as key agents for violence prevention.



Medical screening for survivors of violence offered in Liuyang Maternal and Child Health Hospital
By Guo Tieliu

2012 Highlights

Partnering with Chinese media to raise awareness on gender-based violence

UNFPA has worked with national media as an important partner to advocate for the elimination of gender-based violence. In 2012, UNFPA partnered with Chinese mainstream and Internet media on several occasions to jointly raise awareness of gender-based violence among the public.

On 8 March, the International Women's Day, UNFPA China and its national partners held a forum on youth and gender-based violence together with Sohu.com, one of the largest portal websites in China. Some of the findings of the first quantitative research supported by UNFPA China and Partners for Prevention on masculinity and gender-based were shared at the forum to disclose gender norms that reveal unequal power relations between men and women. It is these unequal power relations that may lead to gender-based violence. Gender experts from UNFPA, academia and NGOs called for action to involve young people to make them better understand gender issues and to become champions in the fight against gender-based violence. The forum was broadcast online on Sohu under the headline "Awareness on Gender Equality is the Best Gift on International Women's Day."

On the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW Day) on 25 November, UNFPA China supported Professor Fang Gang, an advocate on gender and sexuality education in China to launch an online campaign



▲ Youth and gender-based violence forum By Sohu

to call for Chinese men to pledge a commitment of zero tolerance to violence against women on Sohu.com (<http://gongyi.sohu.com/20121123/n358477454.shtml>). Recommended by UNFPA and Partners for Prevention, Professor Fang was invited by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to be a member of Network of Men Leaders as part of the Secretary General's UNiTE Campaign (<http://endviolence.un.org/>).

This call-to-action on Sohu.com has generated media interests in gender-based violence issues in China. Popular newspaper Shanghai Evening News (http://newspaper.jfdaily.com/xwwb/html/2012-12/01/content_930187.htm) published an in-depth report highlighting the need to address root causes of gender-based violence and the unequal power

relations between men and women, citing evidence from the masculinity and gender-based violence research supported by UNFPA China (www.partners4prevention.org).

In addition, the Facts and Figures on Violence against Women published by UNFPA China was posted on NETEASE before the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women in the form of cartoons and graphics in the Women and Data section of the Women Channel. (<http://lady.163.com/special/sense/missshu13.html>)



Trainers from Y-peer in the Asia-Pacific region participating in the peer education training camp in China ▲

By Guo Tieliu

South-South Cooperation and International Exchanges

Currently UNFPA focuses to increase the capacity of national partners to engage in South-South and international cooperation on population and development issues through policy dialogue and discussions about strategies to promote China's South-South cooperation efforts and international exchanges in reproductive health and population related fields.

In 2012, the UNFPA China office facilitated the visits of three high-level delegations from Thailand, Ghana and Pakistan. The delegations met with relevant government agencies and academic institutions to discuss possible ways to work together to address challenges in maternal health, ageing and other emerging challenges.

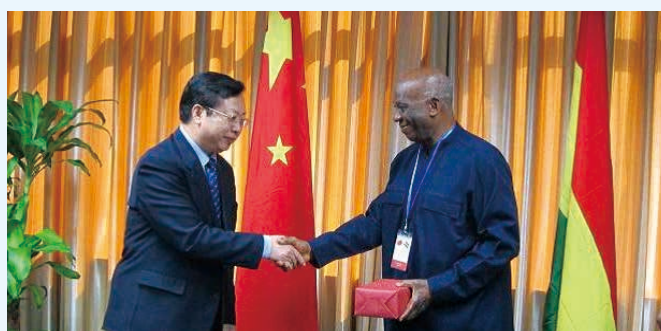
2012 Highlights

Population and Development Delegation from Ghana visits China

Through the facilitation of UNFPA China and Ghana offices, a high-level delegation from Ghana composed of senior officials and representatives from the National Population Council (NPC), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, Ghana Health Services and the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana paid a study visit to China in September. The purpose of the visit was to learn how China develops, implements and monitors its population and development policies and programmes in order to try to identify possible areas of collaboration between the two countries. The delegation met with their Chinese counterparts from the National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), Ministry of Health, China National Commission of Ageing, China Population and Development Research Centre and China Family Planning Association, as well as entities from the private sector.

Ghana and China are at different stages of demographic transition. Whereas issues of ageing, urbanization and migration are of concern in China, key priority issues for Ghana include a youthful population, high maternal and child mortality rates, low contraceptive coverage and rapid urbanization coupled with internal migration of young people.

As a result of the intensive discussions and field visits facilitated by UNFPA and its partners in China, at the end of this study visit, the Ghana delegation proposed a number of areas for possible collaboration between the two countries. Specifically, the below priorities may well be taken further with support from Chinese counterparts:



▲ Mr. Chen Chuan Shu, President, China National Committee on Ageing met with Dr. Arkutu, Chairman of National Population Council Board By UNFPA Ghana Office

- Capacity Building in population/development analysis and integration using Population Administration and Decision Information System Software and in identified reproductive health delivery, including Sino-implant II insertion, removal and counselling, and comprehensive emergency obstetric care.
- Establishment of a national population information database for Ghana as a basis for effective integration of population into development planning.
- Establishment of model reproductive health centres to provide a comprehensive range of reproductive health services, particularly in the public sector.
- Creation of a platform for international exchange and cooperation through collaboration and participation in population and development activities or conferences and sharing of best practices in areas such as reproductive health, ageing and young people.
- Increase supply of high quality and affordable family planning and reproductive health commodities.

— with Contribution from UNFPA Ghana

Management Highlights

In line with UNFPA's new global business plan and strategic framework, in 2012 UNFPA China further emphasized strengthening accountability in programme management and delivery, as well as the importance of communicating with one voice and a stronger voice with national programme implementation.

Enhancing accountability

UNFPA provided training to national implementing partners on financial policy and procedures, monitoring and evaluation and progress reporting. Training was also provided to the partners on auditing requirements as well as audit compliance. National coordination meetings were co-chaired with the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), the national coordinating agency for UNFPA Country Programme in China, to review programme progress, to streamline programme management procedures, to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, and to propose ways forward to improve programme delivery. To improve the quality of financial management and reporting, the China office is implementing International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Strengthening communication capability

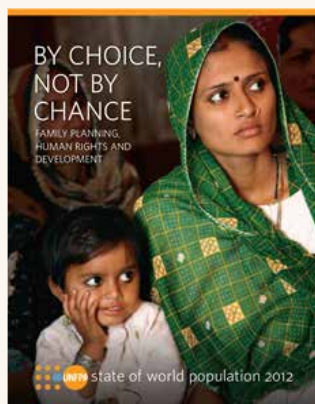


UNFPA Communication Skills Training for national partners
By Zhou Ying

In order to further strengthen its advocacy roles, UNFPA China decided to enhance its information and communication capability. One successful initiative in 2012 was the development of the UNFPA China Communication Toolkit to Support Programme Implementation. It is an effort to promote the use of strategic communication in programme implementation, taking into account the national context in China. Instead of focusing on different strands of communication theory, the Toolkit introduces key communication methods and provides a set of practical tools and templates that can be used to support programme implementation, advocacy and resource mobilization. The Toolkit was well received by national partners at a tailored communication workshop, which provided interactive sessions on media engagement, human-interest story writing and photography. Implementing partners have requested further training to be provided to their sub-national branches. UNFPA will continue to support capacity building to enable better communication of programme results.

Key UNFPA global publications with Chinese Versions available

State of World Population 2012



By Choice, Not by Chance Family Planning, Human Rights and Development

Family planning is a human right. Yet today some 222 million women in developing countries are unable to exercise that right because they lack access to contraceptives, information and quality services or because social and economic forces prevent them from taking advantage of services even where they are available.

The State of World Population 2012 explains why family planning is a right, examines the challenges in ensuring that all women, men and young people are able to exercise that right and suggests actions that governments and international organizations can take to give everyone the power and the means to decide freely and responsibly how many children to have and when to have them.

Download the report and other relevant resources from:
<http://unfpa.org/swp>

Ageing in the 21st Century: A Celebration and A Challenge



Rapidly and surely the world is getting older. In 2000, for the first time in history, there were more people over age 60 than children below age 5. The number and proportion of older persons is growing faster than any other age group, and will surpass 1 billion people in less than 10 years.

Ageing is now occurring fastest in the developing world, which has limited resources and plans to deal with this unprecedented demographic trend. The older generation -- which includes caregivers, voters, teachers, volunteers, entrepreneurs, leaders, and more -- represents a growing reservoir of talent and experience that can be tapped to reap a 'longevity dividend'.

This global ageing report calls for new approaches to dealing with healthcare, workforce and retirement issues, living arrangements and intergenerational relations. This will help countries to harness the potential benefits and minimize the disruption that ageing will bring.

Download the report and other relevant resources from:
<http://unfpa.org/ageingreport/>

Current Partners

National partners

Overall coordination	Ministry of Commerce
Universal access to reproductive health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reproductive health policy advocacy •Maternal health in ethnic areas •Midwifery •HIV prevention among high-risk groups •Youth sexual and reproductive health 	National Population and Family Planning Commission Ministry of Health Ministry of Railways National Centre for Women and Children's Health Red Cross Society of China China Maternal and Child Health Association China Population Development and Research Centre China Family Planning Commission National Centre for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention China Youth Network Yunnan Reproductive Health Research and Development Centre
Population and Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Urbanization and migration •Data for development •Ageing 	National Development Reform Commission China National Committee on Ageing National Population and Family Planning Commission National Bureau of Statistics China Center for Urban Development
Gender equality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sex ratio at birth imbalance •Gender-based violence 	National Population and Family Planning Commission All China Women's Federation Ministry of Health National Centre for Women and Children's Health Anti-Domestic Violence Network of China (Beijing Fan Bao)

International organizations and other UN agencies

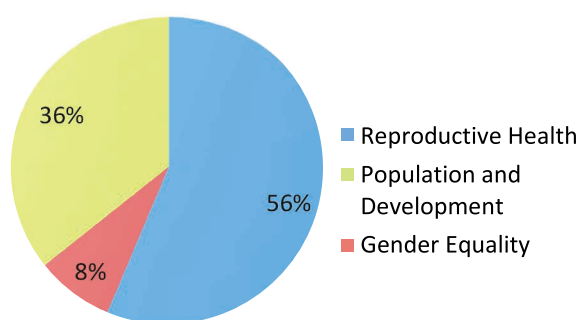
Universal access to reproductive health	Government of Luxembourg Southampton University Statistical Science Research Institute Population Services International UNAIDS WHO
Population and development	Southampton University Statistical Science Research Institute HelpAge International UNICEF
Gender equality	UNICEF UN Women UNDP UNESCO ILO WHO

2012 Financial Overview

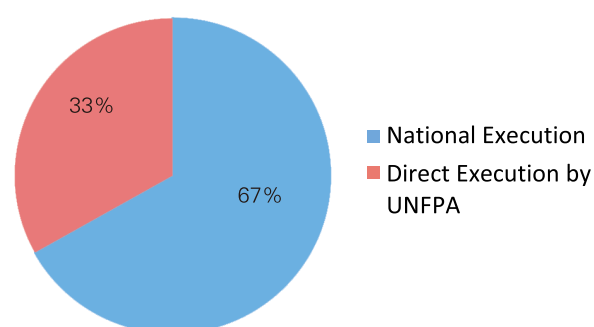
Summary of Resources Allocations and Expenditures (in USD)

	Allocation	Expenditures	Balance	Implementation Rate
Regular Resources	4,796,000	4,543,639	252,361	95%
Other Resources	421,313	351,152	70,161	83%
Institutional Support Budget	676,683	691,771	-15,088	102%
Total	5,893,996	5,586,562	307,434	95%

Fund Allocation among Components under Regular Resource 2012



Regular Resource in Different Implementation Modalities 2012





UNFPA China

1-161, Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building
14 Liangmahe Nanlu, Beijing 100600, China
Email: china.office@unfpa.org