Chapter VIII

Population

In 2015, world population reached 7.3 billion, twice the number of people that were on the planet in 1969. During the year, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued its work in reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, adolescent and youth needs, humanitarian assistance and partnership brokering. UNFPA supported critical maternal health interventions in 39 countries with the highest levels of maternal death and illness, including through strengthening midwifery and emergency obstetric and newborn care; and continued responding to humanitarian crises, including emergency sexual and reproductive health needs of women in Vanuatu in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam, in Nepal after a devastating earthquake and aftershocks, and in Myanmar after floods caused by Cyclone Komen and other natural disasters.

The Fund’s total revenue decreased to $992.8 million from $1025.1 million in 2014 and programme expenditure decreased to $977.4 million from $1002.1 million in 2014.

During the year, the Commission on Population and Development considered the special theme “Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda”.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the Thirteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration in February. It continued to analyse and report on world demographic trends and policies, making its findings available in publications and on the Internet.

Population and Development

Further implementation of the Programme of Action

Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development, at its forty-eighth session (New York, 11 April 2014 and 13–17 April 2015) [E/2015/25], considered as its special theme: “Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda”.

The Commission considered the report [E/CN.9/2015/2] of its Bureau on its five intersessional meetings (New York, 12 September, 6 November and 9 December 2014, 13 January and 10 March 2015) and took note [E/2015/25 (dec. 2015/102)] of the report of the Secretary-General on “Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014; Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs” (see p. 000) and of a Secretariat note on the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2016–2017 [E/CN.9/2015/CRP.1]. The Commission also had before it three reports of the Secretary-General [E/CN.9/2015/3–5] (see below) and 20 statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council [E/CN.9/2015/NGO/1–20]. The Commission held general debates on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want—integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda; and the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council (see p. 000). It also adopted for its forty-ninth (2016) session the theme “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda” and postponed the decision on the theme for its fiftieth (2017) session until its forty-ninth session [E/2015/25 (dec. 2015/101)].

Reports of Secretary-General. In a February report [E/CN.9/2015/3], the Secretary-General provided an overview of demographic changes that were projected to occur over the forthcoming 15 years and discussed their implications for efforts to achieve sustainable development. World population reached 7.3 billion in 2015, twice the number of people that were on the planet in 1969. The report showed that the greatest challenge was to adjust to a global population of 8.4 billion people in 2030 eager to achieve higher standards of living, while minimizing the negative impact of human activity on the environment. It was projected that an additional 2.1 billion babies would be born worldwide; about 2 billion children would reach school age; the number of women of reproductive age would increase to 2.0 billion; older persons, aged 60 or over, would make up an increasing proportion of the global population; all of the 1.1 billion increase in population would take place in urban areas; and that in the next 15 years the number of international migrants would increase by 30 million people. The Secretary-General stated that efforts had to be scaled up to maintain levels of school enrolment, and that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women would require eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination.
against women, promoting female education, and ensuring women’s access to means of family planning and to the labour market, social security and political process. Responding to urban growth presented an opportunity to implement an urban development agenda that would make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. To ensure the well-being of all migrants, sufficient legal channels for safe and orderly migration had to be created. The report concluded that the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [YUN 1994, p. 955], as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), would depend on forging new and stronger partnerships. There was a need for the international community to ensure access to resources for growing numbers of people, eradicate poverty, move away from unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and safeguard the environment.

In January, the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.9/2015/4] on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda, which highlighted the experiences of Member States in addressing population issues that were central to defining and implementing a post-2015 vision for sustainable development. In particular, the report focused on mobility and urbanization of populations; time-bound opportunity to enable demographic dividends; centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights for sustainable development; and potential for reaping returns on population data. The report concluded that the transformational post-2015 development agenda envisaged by Member States required a comprehensive approach to issues such as peace and security, poverty and weak health and other public systems, together with increasing population mobility and unplanned, under-serviced urbanization. Sustained and deepened investments to ensure the dignity, human rights, good health of all persons, together with effective participation, partnership and data systems, would provide a powerful, people-centred foundation for sustainable development.

In accordance with a request made by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session [YUN 1995, p. 1103] and General Assembly resolutions 49/128 [YUN 1994, p. 963] and 50/124 [YUN 1995, p. 1094], the Secretary-General submitted a January report [E/CN.9/2015/5] on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Despite modest increases in donor assistance, funding levels were below the amounts necessary to fully implement the Programme of Action. As the international community charted a course for the post-2015 era, population dynamics and reproductive health were central to sustainable development and had to be an integral part of development planning and poverty reduction strategies. The Secretary-General pointed out that increased efforts to mobilize financial resources were necessary to address unfinished work of the ICPD.

In January [E/CN.9/2015/6], the Secretary-General issued a report reviewing progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2014. It covered the activities of the Division on the analysis of fertility, population policies and international migration; preparation of world population estimates and projections; analysis of mortality; interrelations between population and development; and monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covered other major activities carried out by the Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, mainly through the Internet.

On 22 July, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 2015/253, took note of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session and approved the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth (2016) session.

Also on 22 July, the Council decided that at its forty-ninth session, the Commission should review the functioning of its methods of work, with a view to further enhancing the impact of its work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council; and to request the Secretariat to prepare a note for consideration by the Commission at its forty-ninth session on ways and means to achieve those objectives (decision 2015/252).

Expert group meeting. To contribute to the preparations and deliberations on the themes of the Commission’s 2015 and 2016 sessions, the Population Division convened an expert group meeting on “The post-2015 era: Implications for the global research agenda on population and development” (New York, 10 April) [ESA/P/WP/239] to review gaps and priorities in demographic research to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and to assist the international community in identifying a global, policy-relevant research agenda on population and development. Common themes from the discussions included the paucity of data that was undermining efforts to conduct policy-relevant research and was required to inform the post-2015 development agenda; the need for capacity building and training, including on dissemination and use of research and evidence; and the process of data collection, data sharing and collaboration with all stakeholders.
International migration
and development

By resolution 70/147 of 17 December (see p. 000), the General Assembly called upon States to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants, especially those of women and children; and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue. It further welcomed the consideration afforded to the issues of migration, development and human rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see p. 000); and requested Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development [YUN 2013, p. 1025].

Thirteenth Meeting on International Migration and Development. In response to Assembly resolution 58/208 [YUN 2003, p. 1087], the UN Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the Thirteenth Coordinating Meeting on International Migration (New York, 12–13 February) [E/2015/35]. The meeting was attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives of Member States, observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, offices of the UN Secretariat, and regional commissions as well as NGOs active in the field of international migration. It further considered the progress of UN system agencies, and other intergovernmental and NGOs in integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda, including ways to leverage migration within the renewed framework on financing for development; the activities to follow-up and implement the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development [YUN 2013, p. 1025]; and the eight-point agenda for action of the Secretary-General presented in his report to the High-level Dialogue [Ibid., p. 1024].

General Assembly action. By resolution 70/1 (see p. 000), the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (New York, 25–27 September), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The 2030 Agenda included the SDGs, including target to reduce transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent to less than 3 per cent by 2030.

Global Forum. The eighth Global Forum on Migration and Development (Istanbul, Turkey, 14–16 October) was organized under the theme “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development”. The thematic agenda of the Forum aimed at enhancing the focus of migration management on the rights, dignity and well-being of the migrant; promoting the universal recognition of the development impact of migration in public policies; and engaging relevant stakeholders in strengthening the linkages between migration and development.

United Nations Population Fund

Activities

Executive Board. The Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) held their first regular session (26–30 January), annual session (1–12 June) and second regular session (1–4 September) [E/2015/35] in New York.

On 24 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/10)], the Executive Board took note of the documents contained in the UNFPA Executive Director’s report for 2014 [DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part I, Part I/Add.1 & Part II)] [YUN 2014, p. 1213]. It requested the Executive Director to make further improvements in the next annual report by referring to the theories of change document accompanying the strategic plan, making use of evaluation findings and including more details on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities for development, lessons learned and actions taken in response.

By decision 2015/219 of 29 June, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS on its work in 2014.

Reports of Executive Director. In accordance with Executive Board decision 2013/31 [YUN 2013, p. 852], the UNFPA Executive Director submitted a report [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I)], which contained the midterm review of and progress report on the UNFPA strategic plan 2014–2017. The report assessed the changing development environment and the validity of the strategic plan; reviewed progress of the implementation of the plan in the first two years; and proposed necessary adjustments. It further addressed progress achieved in implementing Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system.

The report found that, of the 15 development outputs, UNFPA fully achieved mid-term targets for nine outputs and achieved targets by 60–99 per cent for five outputs. Only one output showed an achievement of less than 60 per cent. With regard to organizational effectiveness and efficiency, UNFPA demonstrated...
equally good results. With respect to global and regional interventions, 87 per cent of outputs were fully achieved; 13 per cent achieved 60–99 per cent; and no output achieved less than 60 per cent.

The review concluded that the UNFPA strategic plan 2014–2017 had positioned the organization well in supporting Member States, and that UNFPA was well aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see p. 000) and with the findings of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review [YUN 2014, p. 1206]. Its work was relevant to all SDGs, directly through Goal 3, with its inclusion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, maternal health and ending the AIDS epidemic; Goal 5, with targets to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, eliminate gender-based violence and harmful practices, and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; Goal 10, which addressed inequalities and discrimination, including for migrants; Goal 16, ensuring the participation of women and girls in decision-making and their safety from violence; and Goal 17, which promoted strong capacity for results and efficiency. It proposed minor adjustments to the organization’s focus and priorities, enabling it to achieve fully achieved; 13 per cent achieved 60–99 per cent; and no output achieved less than 60 per cent.

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The review confirmed the strategic focus of UNFPA and that the strategic plan had strengthened the organization’s focus and priorities, enabling it to achieve results in development and in organizational effectiveness and efficiency. It proposed minor adjustments to better align the strategic plan with the 2030 Agenda during the remaining period of the plan (2016–2017), and enable UNFPA to respond to the changing development environment.

An addendum [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)] provided a statistical and financial review for 2015. It showed that from 2014 to 2015, total UNFPA revenue had declined by 3.2 per cent from $1,025.1 million to $992.8 million. While that decrease was attributable to regular resources, which declined by 15 per cent from $523.4 million to $444.8 million, it had been partially offset by an increase in revenue from other resources, which grew by 9.2 per cent from $501.7 million to $548.0 million. Total expenses amounted to $977.4 million. UNFPA ended 2015 with $794.4 million in reserves and fund balances and managed to close the year in good financial health.

JIU recommendations. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/267 [YUN 2004, p. 1372], the Executive Director reported [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part II)] on UNFPA management responses to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). JIU issued six reports in 2015 that were relevant to UNFPA: evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by UN system organizations [JIU/REP/2015/1]; recommendations to the General Assembly for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of UN system support for small island developing States [JIU/REP/2015/2]; cooperation among the UN regional commissions [JIU/REP/2015/3]; public information and communications policies and practices in the UN system [JIU/REP/2015/4]; review of activities and resources devoted to address climate change in the UN system organizations [JIU/REP/2015/5]; and review of the organizational ombudsman services across the UN system [JIU/REP/2015/6]. Out of 40 recommendations made in 2015, 20 were relevant to UNFPA, of which 17 recommendations were directed to the Executive Board and three to the legislative organs. Recommendations relevant to UNFPA issued by JIU in 2014 had been implemented or were being pursued, however, seven recommendation were not accepted or under consideration by UNFPA.

State of World Population report. The Fund’s State of World Population 2015 report [Sales E.15.III.H.1], entitled “Shelter from the storm: a transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world”, called for action to meet the needs of women and girls displaced by conflict or uprooted by disaster and to ensure their rights.

Development results

Access to integrated SRH services. In 2014–2015, the outcome indicators for increasing the availability and use of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services showed mostly positive trends. Births attended by skilled providers and the availability at service-delivery points of life-saving medicines from the priority list of the World Health Organization (WHO) increased. The number of countries that increased their budget allocations and the commitment of regional bodies to SRH services increased. Annual increases of 3.2 per cent and 1.7 per cent in contraceptive prevalence were reported in East and Southern Africa and in West and Central Africa, respectively; however, contraceptive use and condom use among people with more than one partner hardly changed. At the output level, targets regarding family planning and maternal health services were fully achieved; and targets for national functional logistical management information systems, demand generation for family planning, national midwifery workforce policies, maternal death surveillance systems and fistula repair surgeries were also met. The target for using emergency obstetric and neonatal care assessments to inform maternal and newborn health services was not met, partly because of financial constraints. UNFPA reached 10.6 million women and girls with SRH services and gender-based violence services. By 2015, 57 priority countries had the capacity to implement the minimum initial service package, and 59 countries had humanitarian contingency plans that included SRH and services for survivors of gender-based violence. UNFPA enhanced its leadership role and affirmed its global position in humanitarian work.
Development policies for adolescents. Progress was witnessed in integrating adolescent and youth priorities into development frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see p. 000) and in the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD Programme of Action Beyond 2014 (see p. 000). The Security Council adopted resolution 2250(2015) on youth, peace and security (see p. 000). The number of countries with laws that enabled youth to exercise their rights and fulfil their needs for SRH services increased to 89, exceeding the strategic plan midterm target of 78. Ninety-four countries, versus a midterm target of 93, countries had platforms that advocated prioritizing adolescent and youth issues into national policies and plans. UNFPA advocated allowing adolescents and youth to have access to SRH counselling and HIV services in 56 countries, narrowly missing the midterm target of 59. It continued to provide technical support to countries to implement sexuality education programmes in accordance with international standards. The number of countries with aligned curricula increased from 39 in 2013 to 73, matching the midterm target. UNFPA prioritized adolescent and marginalized girls through the Action for Adolescent Girls Initiative, which had equipped 15 countries with technical knowhow to focus adolescent and youth policies and programmes on young, at-risk female populations. Fifty countries (from a target of 52) had implemented health, social and economic asset-building programmes that helped adolescent girls at risk of child marriage.

Gender equality and reproductive rights. Trends in gender equality steadily progressed. At the national level, the number of countries with a budget allocation for a gender equality action plan integrating reproductive rights increased to 71, exceeding the expected number of 62. UNFPA supported national systems for tracking and reporting on the implementation of reproductive rights recommendations and obligations. Fifty-four countries had functional tracking systems, however, UNFPA did not meet the target of 66 countries, due to budget cuts and changes in priorities. With regard to gender-based violence and harmful practices, UNFPA continued to implement the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on female genital mutilation/cutting, which focused on 17 countries. By 2015, all of those countries had policies to denounce female genital mutilation, 13 of them had criminalized this practice, and 2,920 communities in those countries declared the abandonment of female genital mutilation, exceeding the target of 2,000. Challenges experienced in gender equality work included inadequate capacity in countries, suboptimal use of existing data to inform policy, and poor follow-up on policy implementation.

Population dynamics. UNFPA produced and supported the generation of evidence-based research and analysis to support the incorporation of population dynamics into national, regional and global development frameworks; and supported 30 countries in conducting demographic dividend analyses. Seventy-three per cent of the countries that experienced humanitarian crises received technical assistance from UNFPA to use population data to support needs assessments, exceeding the mid-term target of 70 per cent. Forty-two countries (versus the target of 66) had conducted a population situation analysis. Capacity-building in other data analysis aspects was on track: targets were met regarding the capacity to analyse and use disaggregated data on adolescents, and the capacity to disaggregate gender-based violence data. Main challenges in the population and development area included capacity development; reliable and timely data for policymaking; and adequate human and financial resources to effectively address growing demands for analyses of population data. A lesson learned was that the population situation analysis required more support.

Country and intercountry programmes

In 2015, total UNFPA expenses on country programmes, global and regional interventions and other programme activities decreased by 2.6 per cent, from $820.2 million in 2014 to $798.6 million in 2015. Institutional budget expenses amounted to $140.3 million ($139.5 million in 2014), which was equivalent to 14.4 percent of total expenses for the year. Approximately $631.1 million, or 79 per cent of total expenses was spent by UNFPA in the field.

Eastern and Southern Africa. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa totalled $201.2 million in 2015, which accounted for 21.5 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

On 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/6)], at its first regular session, the Executive Board approved the country programme document for Madagascar [DP/FPA/CPD/MDG/7].

The Executive Board [dec. 2015/15], at its annual session in June, took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Somalia (2016) and the United Republic of Tanzania (1 July 2015–30 June 2016) [DP/FPA/2015/9]; and reviewed and approved, in accordance with its decision 2014/7 [YUN 2014, p. 1311], the country programme document for Uganda [DP/FPA/CPD/UGA/8].

At its second regular session [dec. 2015/22], the Executive Board reviewed and approved the country programme documents for Swaziland [DP/FPA/CPD/SZW/6], Zambia [DP/FPA/CPD/ZMB/8] and Zimbabwe [DP/FPA/CPD/ZWE/7]. It further took note of the six-month extension of the country programme for Ethiopia and the first one-year extension of the country programme for Mozambique [DP/FPA/2015/14].
Western and Central Africa. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes in Western and Central Africa totalled $161.7 million in 2015, which accounted for 17.2 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

On 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/6)], the Executive Board approved the country programme document for Mali [DP/FPA/CPD/MLI/7].

At its second regular session [dec. 2015/22], the Executive Board reviewed and approved the country programme document for Guinea-Bissau [DP/FPA/CPD/GNB/6] and approved the second, one-year extension of the country programme for Côte d’Ivoire. It further took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programme for Burkina Faso [DP/FPA/2015/14].

Arab States. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes in Arab states totalled $111.9 million in 2015, which accounted for 11.9 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

On 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/6)], the Executive Board took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programme for Iraq [DP/FPA/2015/4].

In June [dec. 2015/15], the Executive Board took note of the one-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, and approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon (2016) and the fourth one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (2015) [DP/FPA/2015/9].

Asia and the Pacific. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes in Asia and the Pacific totalled $145.8 million in 2015, which accounted for 15.5 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

At its first regular session [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/6)], the Executive Board approved the country programme document for Myanmar and took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic [DP/FPA/2015/4].

In June [dec. 2015/15], the Executive Board approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Papua New Guinea (2016–2017) [DP/FPA/2015/9].

At its second regular session [dec. 2015/22], the Executive Board reviewed and approved the country programme documents for Cambodia [DP/FPA/CPD/KHM/5], China [DP/FPA/CPD/CN/8], Indonesia [DP/FPA/CPD/IDN/9] and Maldives [DP/FPA/CPD/MDV/6], and took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea [DP/FPA/2015/14].

Latin America and the Caribbean. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes totalled $57.5 million in 2015, which accounted for 6.1 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

On 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/6)], the Executive Board approved the nine-month extension of the country programme for Colombia [DP/FPA/2015/4].

At its second regular session [dec. 2015/22], the Executive Board approved and approved the country programme documents for Colombia [DP/FPA/COL/6], El Salvador [DP/FPA/CPD/SLV/8] and Panama [DP/FPA/CPD/PAN/3], and took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Brazil [DP/FPA/2015/14].

Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes totalled $32.6 million in 2015, which accounted for 3.5 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

At its annual session [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/15)], the Executive Board reviewed and approved the country programme documents for Armenia [DP/DCP/ARM/3] and Turkmenistan [DP/DCP/TKM/2].

At its second regular session [dec. 2015/22], the Executive Board reviewed and approved the country programme documents for Azerbaijan [DP/FPA/CPD/AZ/E4], Belarus [DP/FPA/CPD/BLR/2], Georgia [DP/FPA/CPD/GEO/3], Kazakhstan [DP/FPA/CPD/KAZ/4], Serbia [DP/FPA/CPD/SRB/1], including the results and resources framework for Kosovo [DP/FPA/CPD/SRB/1/Add.1], Tajikistan [DP/FPA/CPD/TJK/4], the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [DP/FPA/CPD/MKD/1], Turkey [DP/FPA/CPD/TUR/6] and Uzbekistan [DP/FPA/CPD/ UZB/4], and took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine [DP/FPA/2015/14].

Global programme. Programme and institutional budget expenses for UNFPA programmes for its global activities totalled $227.4 million in 2015, which accounted for 24.2 per cent of the total programmes and institutional budget [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)].

Financial and management questions

Financing

UNFPA total revenue was $992.8 million, a $32.3 million (3.2 per cent) decrease over the 2014 figure of $1,025.1 million [DP/FPA/2016/2 (Part I/Add.1)]. The revenue from regular resources was $398.2 million and the gross contribution of other resources was $581.3 million, summing up total gross contributions of $979.5 million. Total expenses were $977.4 million.

At its first regular session [E/2015/35], the Executive Board had before it a report on scaling up UNFPA humanitarian response funding [DP/FPA/2015/2]. UNFPA sought to provide more funding to countries experiencing emergencies and to scale up its response while awaiting dedicated donor funding. It proposed to increase the annual allocation of the emergency fund from regular resources, from the current limit of $5 million to $10 million; requested the Board...
to grant the Executive Director the authority to increase this amount by a maximum of 20 per cent in a given year; and proposed to establish a humanitarian response reserve for $10 million, as a one-time allocation from regular resources.

On 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/2)], the Executive Board took note of the report; approved an annual allocation of $10 million of regular resources for the emergency fund, reflecting an increase of $5 million from the previously approved level; authorized the UNFPA Executive Director to increase the emergency fund by up to $2 million in a given year; and approved a one-time allocation of $10 million of regular resources for the establishment of the humanitarian response reserve. The Executive Board also requested UNFPA to report on the status of the reserve and on the use of the emergency fund in its annual financial statements, and to report at the first regular session of 2017 on its humanitarian response funding.

**Audit and oversight**

On 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/3)], the Executive Board took note of and approved the report of the Executive Director on the UNFPA revised oversight policy [DP/FPA/2015/1]. It also requested UNFPA to continue to monitor its implementation and to conduct periodic reviews of its relevance and applicability with respect to the safeguarding and strengthening of UNFPA management oversight functions and to report to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2017 with proposals to make further improvements.

Also on 30 January [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/5)], the Executive Board took note of the UNFPA report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2013 [YUN 2014, p. 1216]. It requested UNFPA to inform the Executive Board of the organization’s plans to improve its internal audit coverage and encouraged UNFPA to continue to strengthen the capacity of its offices at country, subregional and regional levels, particularly with regard to operational improvement, internal controls, oversight and risk management.

In response to Executive Board decisions 2011/23 [YUN 2011, p. 1010] and 2013/24 [YUN 2013, p. 103], the Director of the UNFPA Division for Oversight Services in April reported on internal audit and oversight activities in 2014 [DP/FPA/2015/7]. The report contained information on the overall audit assessment of the risk exposure of UNFPA; significant issues revealed through internal audit and investigation activities of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (O AIS); investigations, including cases of fraud and actions taken; the review of internal audit recommendations issued in 2010–2014 and their implementation status; and the disclosure of internal audit reports. Throughout the year, O AIS worked on 22 internal audit engagements; one was in an advisory capacity and two were undertaken jointly with other organizations of the UN system. An addendum to the report [DP/FPA/2015/7/Add.1] provided the annual report of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee, pursuant to Executive Board decision 2008/37 [YUN 2008, p. 1193].

On 9 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/13)], the Executive Board took note of the report and its addendum, recalled its decision 2015/5 (see p. 000), where UNFPA was requested to inform the Executive Board of the organization’s plans to improve internal audit coverage, and requested UNFPA to consider those plans, including with regard to strengthening investigation capacity, in the revised integrated budget to be presented to the Executive Board in 2016.

The Executive Director submitted to the Executive Board a December report [DP/FPA/2016/1] on UNFPA follow-up to recommendations by the UN Board of Auditors for 2014 [A/70/5/Add.8]. The Board of Auditors made 10 new recommendations for 2014, compared to 11 for 2015. As of October 2015, seven had been implemented and 3 in progress. The Board also noted that twelve of the 22 recommendations made during the previous financial periods were fully implemented (55 per cent) and ten (45 per cent) were under implementation. The ten outstanding recommendations were pending approval of certain policies and the implementation of new policies, structure and tools in field offices. There was scope for improvement in some areas, specifically internal control systems; accountability; the decentralization of operations; and results-based programme management.

**Evaluation**

In accordance with the revised evaluation policy of UNFPA [YUN 2013, p. 103], the independent Evaluation Office submitted its annual report for 2014 [DP/FPA/2015/6]. The report presented progress made by the evaluation function, specifically in relation to the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan 2014–2015 against key performance indicators, highlighted progress in strengthening internal evaluation capacity, and outlined UNFPA engagement to contribute to strengthening national evaluation capacities. The report further presented lessons learned from corporate evaluations finalized in 2014 and set out how the Evaluation Office contributed to joint evaluation efforts within the United Nations and global communities of practice. It highlighted the main challenges and prospects for evaluation at UNFPA and presented a number of recommendations.

On 9 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/11)], the Executive Board took note of the report and the evaluation workplan for 2015, including amendments to the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2014–2015, as well as the management response. It encouraged UNFPA to strengthen its evaluation function by implementing the recommendations presented.
in the evaluation report and to ensure that the level of human and financial resources was commensurate with the appropriate level of evaluation coverage and the necessary alignment with the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014–2017, and its business model.

Also in accordance with the revised evaluation policy of UNFPA [YUN 2013, p. 1031] and with Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859], the quadrennial budgeted evaluation for 2016–2019 [DP/FPA/2015/12] presented the strategic approach to planning and coverage and detailed proposed corporate and programme-level evaluations for UNFPA, together with information on resources, expected budget, key risks and reporting arrangements.

On 3 September [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/19)], the Executive Board welcomed the proposal to move from a biennial to a quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2016–2019; noted the need to maintain a balance between accountability and learning, with a clear focus on utility; encouraged the Evaluation Office to further engage in joint or system-wide evaluation initiatives; and approved the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2016–2019.

**Ethics Office**

The Executive Board had before it a March report [DP/FPA/2015/8] of the UNFPA Ethics Office, which was issued in response to Executive Board decision 2010/17 [YUN 2010, p. 1061]. The report reviewed the Office’s activities in 2014, described trends in the mandated areas of its work, and provided an assessment of the actions taken and progress made in addressing the key recommendations that were made to management in the 2013 annual report [YUN 2013, p. 1031].

On 9 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/14)], the Executive Board welcomed the report of the UNFPA Ethics Office and urged UNFPA management to continue its efforts to allocate sufficient resources to the ethics function.

**Other financial and administrative issues**

At its second regular session [E/2015/35], the Executive Board had before it a report [DP/FPA/2015/10] on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2015 and future years, which was submitted in response to its decisions 99/5 [YUN 1999, p. 1031] and 2000/9 [YUN 2000, p. 1005]. The purpose of the report was to promote dialogue between UNFPA and its Executive Board on the overall resource situation of the Fund, while continuing to address the important goal of increasing regular resources and achieving a stable, predictable and diversified resource base. The Executive Board also had before it a report on UNFPA resource mobilization strategy [DP/FPA/2015/11], which responded to Executive Board decision 2014/25 [YUN 2014, p. 1217]. The report reflected discussions, informal briefings and formal deliberations related to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system that UNFPA undertook with the Executive Board in 2014, and two informal consultations held with the Board on 13 May and 4 June. It provided a road map that described the financing landscape at the time; key opportunities and required actions for UNFPA to secure existing funding and attract additional funding from a diverse donor base; and partnerships and new channels that UNFPA was exploring in securing such funding.

On 4 September [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/18)], the Executive Board took note of the report and the updated integrated resource plan for 2014–2017 [DP/FPA/2015/CRP.4] and welcomed the UNFPA resource mobilization strategy and its objectives. It encouraged UNFPA to mobilize regular resources while continuing to mobilize supplementary resources for its thematic funds and programmes; encouraged all Member States to increase their contributions to regular resources; and requested UNFPA to engage in informal dialogues with Member States to ensure an ongoing discussion, exchange of information and analysis of funding issues and options, and to submit an analysis of the predictability, flexibility and alignment of resources provided for the implementation of the strategic plan 2014–2017, including funding gaps and their implications for the Integrated Results Framework.

**Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS**

A June report [DP/2015/31–DP/FPA/2015/13] prepared jointly by UNDP and UNFPA addressed the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Issues of particular relevance included the AIDS response in the post-2015 development agenda; intellectual property and HIV commodity security; and thematic segments on social protection and people who used drugs. The report stated that redoubling efforts to reduce inequity, confront stigma and discrimination, and ensure the human rights of all people, would be critical to ending the AIDS epidemic. There was strong global consensus on the proposed target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. By fully implementing the fast-track approach of the UNAIDS strategy, UNDP and UNFPA could avert nearly 28 million new HIV infections and 21 million AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

At its second regular session [E/2015/35 (dec. 2015/22)], the Executive Board took note of the report.

**United Nations Population Award**

The 2015 United Nations Population Award was presented to Thoraya Ahmed Obaid of Saudi Arabia in the individual category and the African Population and Health Research Center of Kenya in the institutional category.
The Award was established by Assembly resolution 36/201 [YUN 1981, p. 792], to be presented annually to individuals and institutions, or any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of population questions and to their solutions. In July, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report [A/70/140] of the UNFPA Executive Director on the UN Population Award.

Other population activities

UN Population Division

The Secretary-General’s report [E/CN.9/2016/7] on programme implementation and progress of work of the UN Population Division in 2015 described the Division’s activities on the analysis of fertility, health and mortality and international migration; preparation of world population estimates and projections; monitoring of population policies; analysis of the interrelations between population and development; support for intergovernmental processes, including the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, organization of expert group meetings and monitoring of internationally agreed development goals; dissemination of population information and data; and technical cooperation activities.

In the area of fertility and family planning, the Population Division issued World Contraceptive Use 2015, a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators; and annual estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period 1970–2030, which informed the final report of the Secretary-General on global progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see p. 000) and provided key evidence on the degree to which the demand for family planning was being met. A concise analysis of family planning was presented in the Trends in Contraceptive Use Worldwide 2015, highlighting indicators of family planning in 2015 and projections to 2030. World Fertility Data 2015 provided up-to-date information on total fertility, age-specific fertility rates and the mean age at childbearing and in World Marriage Data 2015, data from around 1970 through 2014 for more than 220 countries or areas were presented on four key indicators: distributions by marital status of men and women, numbers of currently married men and women, numbers of ever-married men and women, and the mean age at marriage.

With respect to health and mortality, the Population Division worked on World Mortality 2015: Highlights, containing an overview of trends in mortality key indicators at the global level for development groups and major geographic areas. It further issued an online dataset containing tables from World Mortality Report 2015; Mortality Data Inventory 2015, a comprehensive and up-to-date inventory of primary empirical data for the estimation of adult and child mortality at the national level; and a wallchart entitled World Mortality 2015, in which key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels were presented.

In the field of international migration, the Population Division issued a new set of global migrant stock estimates disaggregated by age and sex and by country of birth or citizenship. Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision provided the latest estimates of the international migrant stock for 232 countries and areas since 1990. The global stock of international migrants reached 244 million in mid-2015, an increase of 41 per cent compared with 2000. The Division also produced two briefs on trends in international migration and on integrating migration into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see p. 000); and continued to build the Global Migration Database, which included over 4,900 data tables for over 90 per cent of countries and areas worldwide by the end of the year. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 58/208 [YUN 2003, p. 1087], the Division convened the thirteenth coordination meeting on international migration (see p. 000).

In the area of world population estimates and projections, the Population Division issued World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, which stated that the world’s population numbered 7.3 billion in mid-2015 and was projected to increase to 9.7 billion by 2050. Globally, life expectancy at birth rose by three years between the period 2000–2005 and the period 2010–2015 or from 67 to 70 years, with Africa experiencing the greatest increases. The Division also released a report containing a detailed analysis of the results of the 2014 revision of World Urbanization Prospects [YUN 2014, p. 1219].

Regarding population policies, the Population Division continued implementation of the Eleventh United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, a series begun by the Division in 1963, which recorded government views and policies on key aspects of population and development and provided a tool for documenting how such views and policies had changed over the last half century. As at 31 December, Inquiry responses had been received from 63 Governments. The Division further made progress toward the forthcoming 2015 revision of the World Population Policies Database, which provided up-to-date information on government views, policies and programme measures on population-related topics for all 193 Member States, two observer States and two non-member States of the United Nations. The Global Abortion Policies project was initiated by the Division in collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organization, with the goal to develop an interactive, open-access
database and repository of current abortion laws and policies for all countries of the world. The Division, together with the East-West Centre, organized an expert group meeting on “Policy responses to low fertility” (New York, 2–3 November) to discuss policy approaches and options in countries facing low fertility and population ageing; and hosted, jointly with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, a briefing for Member States on “Policy responses to low fertility”.

In the field of population and development, the Population Division published *World Population Ageing 2015: Highlights*, which provided a summary of global trends in population ageing, sociodemographic characteristics of the older population and demographic drivers of trends in the number and share of older persons. It noted that, globally, the number of people aged 60 or over was projected to grow from 901 million in 2015 to more than 1.4 billion in 2030 and more than 2 billion by 2050. That population age group was the fastest growing group and was increasingly concentrated in the developing world. The full report with the same title also included analyses of linkages between population ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the importance of the growing number of older persons in Africa, the Division published the *Directory of Research on Ageing in Africa: 2004–2015*, which provided an updated inventory of research activities on ageing in the region carried out since 2004. On the occasion of the high-level event of the General Assembly marking the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (see p. 000), the Division published a brief on “Youth population trends and sustainable development”; and in connection with the agreement adopted during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see p. 000), produced a wall-chart entitled “Population, Consumption and the Environment 2015”. Two additional reports in the area of population and development entitled “Population 2030: demographic challenges and opportunities for sustainable development planning” and “Population ageing, intergenerational transfers and demographic dividend in Ecuador” were also published.

With respect to support for intergovernmental processes, the Population Division prepared the reports of the Secretary-General on the theme for the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development (see p. 000); on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014 (see p. 000); and on the special theme for the forty-ninth (2016) session of the Commission: “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2015/252 (see p. 000), the Division engaged in a broad consultation process with Member States, relevant UN entities and international organizations and civil society on various issues. The Division convened an expert panel on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (22 January); and expert group meetings on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda (5–6 October) and on the post-2015 era: implications for the global research agenda on population and development (10 April), all in New York. The Division further made regular technical contributions to global monitoring of the MDGs and provided technical assessments for the Inter-agency and Expert Groups on MDG and SDG indicators.

With regard to the dissemination of population information and data, the Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide access to timely population information for government officials, researchers in academia or the private sector, and civil society; and had actively engaged in promoting content through social media channels.

In the area of technical cooperation, the Division participated in a regional workshop on estimating maternal mortality from census data (Bangkok, 4–7 May); organized a regional workshop on the theme “Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data for development” (Dakar, September) in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; and organized a workshop, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and as part of the Development Account project, entitled “Strengthening capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population estimates and projections in policymaking for sustainable development” (Addis Ababa, 5–9 October).