



2019  
Annual Report

Accelerating the progress towards  
attaining 'the three zeros'



# UNFPA

## Sierra Leone

For enquiries, please contact:

United Nations Population Fund  
12-14 New Signal Hill Road  
Off Congo Cross  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

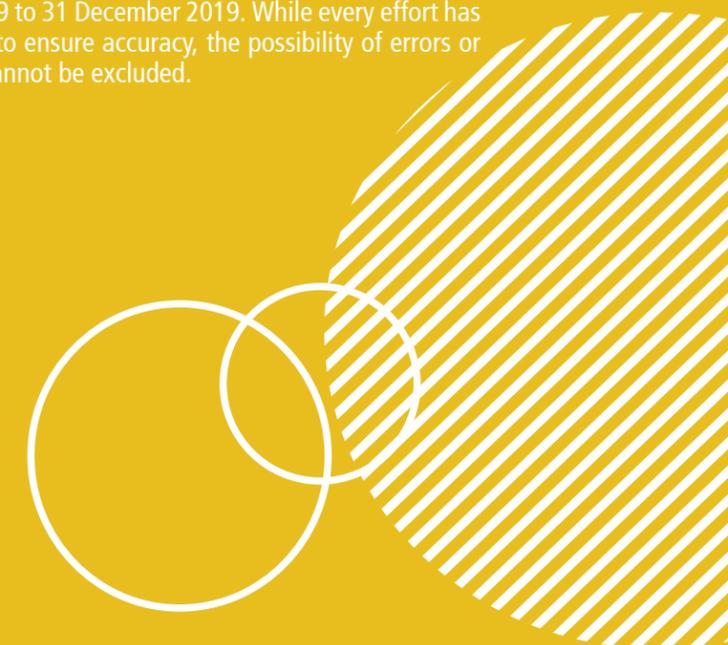
Telephone: +232 79 327330  
Email: [sierra-leone.office@unfpa.org](mailto:sierra-leone.office@unfpa.org)

Web: [sierraleone.unfpa.org](http://sierraleone.unfpa.org)  
Twitter: @UNFPASierraleon  
Facebook: @unfpasierraleone  
YouTube: UNFPA Sierra Leone

Publisher: UNFPA Sierra Leone Country Office  
Editor: Anita Palathingal  
Design and layout: Stephanie Tailleux  
Cover photo: ©UNFPA Sierra Leone All rights reserved.

Any use of information, in full or in part, should be accompanied by an acknowledgement of UNFPA Sierra Leone as the source.

Disclaimer: This publication covers the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the possibility of errors or omissions cannot be excluded.



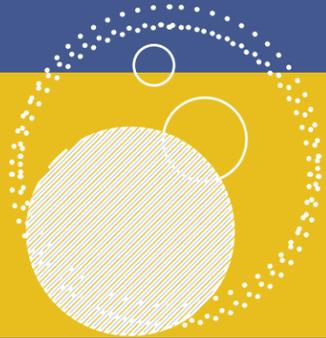
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency, is a principal actor and advocate that works to improve the health and well-being of all Sierra Leoneans, especially women and girls.

Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, UNFPA works to deliver its mandate as an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of good health and equal opportunity and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

In Sierra Leone, we are working to end preventable maternal deaths, end the unmet need for family planning, and end violence and harmful practices against women and girls. We work to ensure that no one is left behind and those furthest behind are reached first.



## Contents



Message from the country representative	06
Key results	07
Chapter 1. Improving the quality of care for maternal health services	11
Chapter 2. Ensuring the sustainability of family planning services	18
Chapter 3. Empowering young people	20
Chapter 4. Eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices	26
Chapter 5. Commemorating ICPD25 and UNFPA@50	33
Chapter 6. Partners and resources	44

# Message from the country representative



2019 was an epic year for UNFPA in Sierra Leone as this annual report, 'Accelerating progress towards attaining the three zeros shows. The zeros refer to the three transformative goals of ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

Our achievements during the course of 2019 would not have been realised without the support of our donors. We express profound gratitude to the Governments of Canada, China, Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom for their continued and unwavering commitment in supporting our mandate to prioritise the rights, needs and dignity of the most vulnerable women and girls in Sierra Leone. Such investments in humanity ensure that no one is left behind and are a testament to the fact that by working in partnership, we can all achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We also value the engagement of our key implementing partners in accelerating the implementation of our sixth country programme. We look forward to further collaboration in the years ahead.

Last year, we celebrated 50 years of UNFPA operating around the world delivering its mandate. We also revisited the commitments that came out of the landmark International Conference on Population Development (ICPD), held in Cairo 25 years ago, where 179 governments endorsed a revolutionary Programme of Action to achieve universal sexual and reproductive health and gender equality. In November 2019, over 170 countries including Sierra Leone recommitted to the Programme of Action at the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit. The Nairobi summit was a special event where heads of state, donors, civil society, businesses, non-governmental organisations and others made more than 1,250 commitments to move the unfinished business of the ICPD forward to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

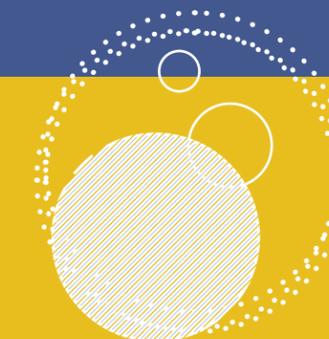
With 10 years ahead of us to take ambitious and concerted action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Decade of Action is all about making motherhood safer and ensuring that every woman and every child survives childbirth. Last year, UNFPA with funds from UK aid, increased the number of midwives in the country and supported professional development courses in surgical skills for medical doctors, surgical assistants and community health officers from around the country.

In Sierra Leone, UNFPA supports a holistic approach to family planning, from the procurement of commodities to the training of providers and effective service delivery, to reach women and adolescents in the last mile. Last year, UNFPA procured over US\$3.1 million worth of contraceptives and reproductive health commodities with funding from UK aid and the UNFPA Supplies programme.

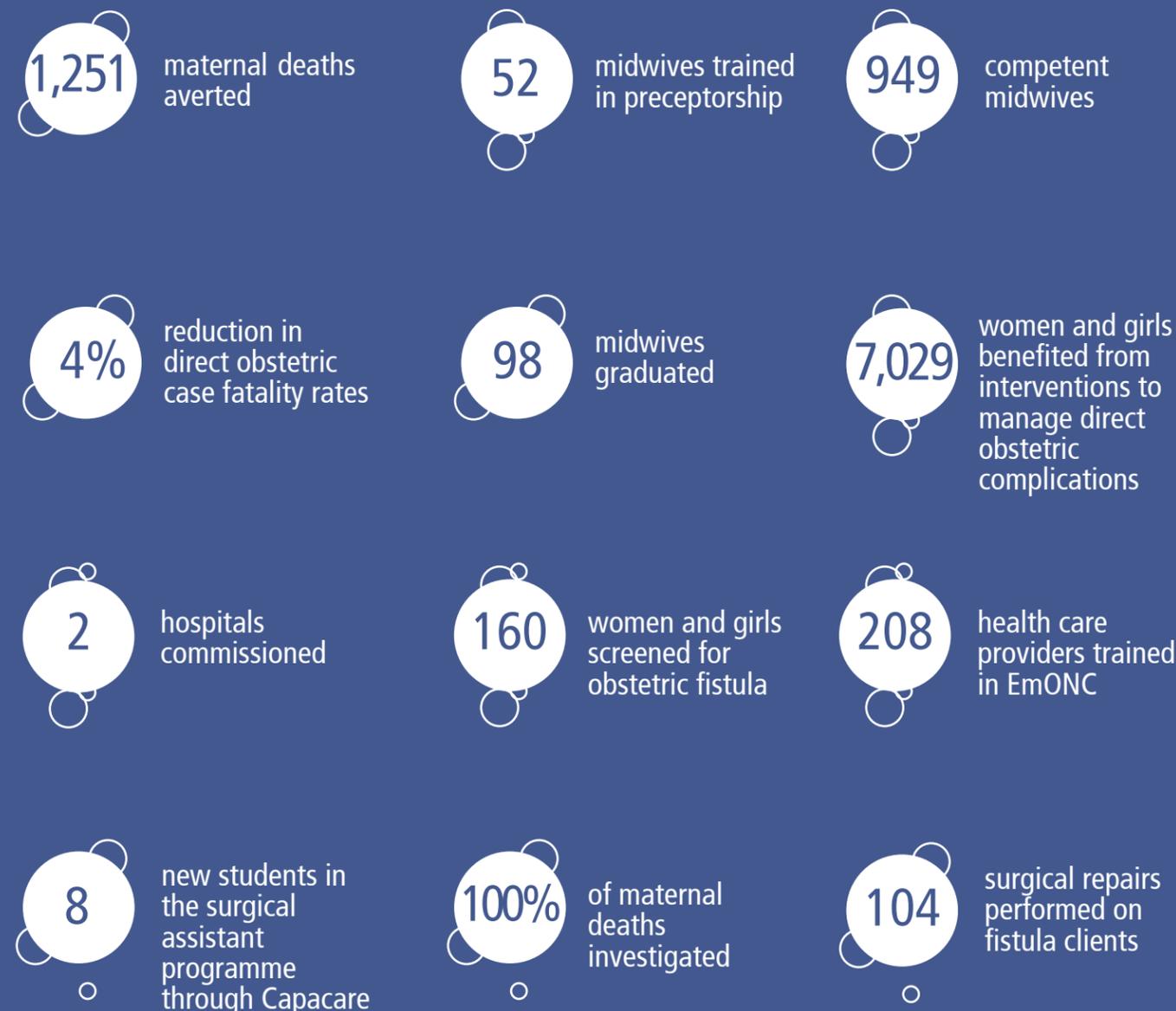
In Sierra Leone, according to the 2013 Demographic Health Survey, 56 per cent of women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. We believe one case is one too many. This must end now. At UNFPA in Sierra Leone, we do not tolerate the normalization of sexual and gender-based violence. Together with our partners, we are accelerating our efforts to end child marriage by 2030. United with our partners, we can get to ZERO.

In the years ahead, UNFPA in Sierra Leone will continue the work of ensuring all women and girls can decide freely on matters relating to their sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. We will also keep up the momentum in implementing the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit and ensure they materialise into action.

# Key results

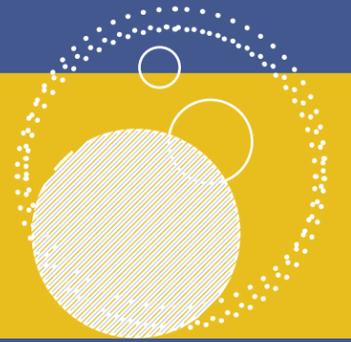


## Ending preventable maternal deaths





## Key results



### Ending unmet need for family planning

538,000

clients reached with family planning services and information

180

family planning service providers oriented in the insertion and removal of Levoplant

160,737

unintended pregnancies averted

1,157

service providers trained in the provision of family planning methods

373,570

couple years of protection generated

253,000

additional users of modern contraceptives

66,573

unsafe abortions averted

472

midwives and nurses trained in the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives

85,100

units of Levoplant and 50,000 units of Sayana Press imported to increase the number of available contraceptives in the country

## Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls

56

Memorandums of Understanding signed across districts to eliminate harmful practices including early child marriage

60

boys' clubs established to equip them with information relating to sexual, reproductive health, gender-based violence and other harmful practices

1,785

women and girls reached with gender-based violence services (medical, psychosocial counselling and legal services)

6,763

girls received prevention and protection services related to early child marriage

## Empowering youth

371

National Youth Service volunteers recruited, oriented and deployed, with support from UNFPA

5,992

marginalized adolescent girls reached with key life skills

152

career guidance counselling teachers trained to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in their respective Junior Secondary Schools

1,754

out-of-school adolescent girls in community learning centres

160

safe spaces supported and maintained, reaching 6,763 adolescent girls in 6 districts across the country

1,200

men and boys reached with messages promoting sexual, reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence prevention

## Chapter 1

# Improving

## the quality of care for maternal health services



Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health is a priority for the Government of Sierra Leone. Over the years, with generous funding from UK aid, UNFPA has been supporting the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) in strengthening Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) to save the lives of mothers and newborns.

## Increasing and improving human resources: Midwives

Midwives play a pivotal role in providing sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health care. When they are competent, confident, regulated according to global standards and provided with the enabling environment to work, they are able to effectively manage over 84 per cent of the causes of maternal morbidity and mortality in a country.<sup>1</sup>

The health system in Sierra Leone has over the years recorded one of the highest maternal mortality statistics globally, with 1,165 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. A key national response to addressing the gap has been the efforts to improve the availability, accessibility, distribution and competency of the health workforce in order to possibly avert over 70 per cent of preventable deaths. According to the MoHS Human Resources for Health Strategy (2017–2021), about 3,000 competently trained midwives are needed to have an impact in Sierra Leone.

In 2019, with funding from the Saving Lives in Sierra Leone Programme of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), UNFPA supported the recruitment, tuition, subsistence, procurement of teaching learning materials and supportive supervision of 120 new midwifery students for a two-year training programme at two midwifery schools located in Bo and Makeni districts. At the end of the year, a total of 98 midwives graduated from these schools and were all deployed to health facilities in the 16 districts to provide much needed quality maternal and newborn services. Five tutors from the School of Midwifery in Makeni district received sponsorship for higher education to meet accreditation standards and to improve the quality of education of students.

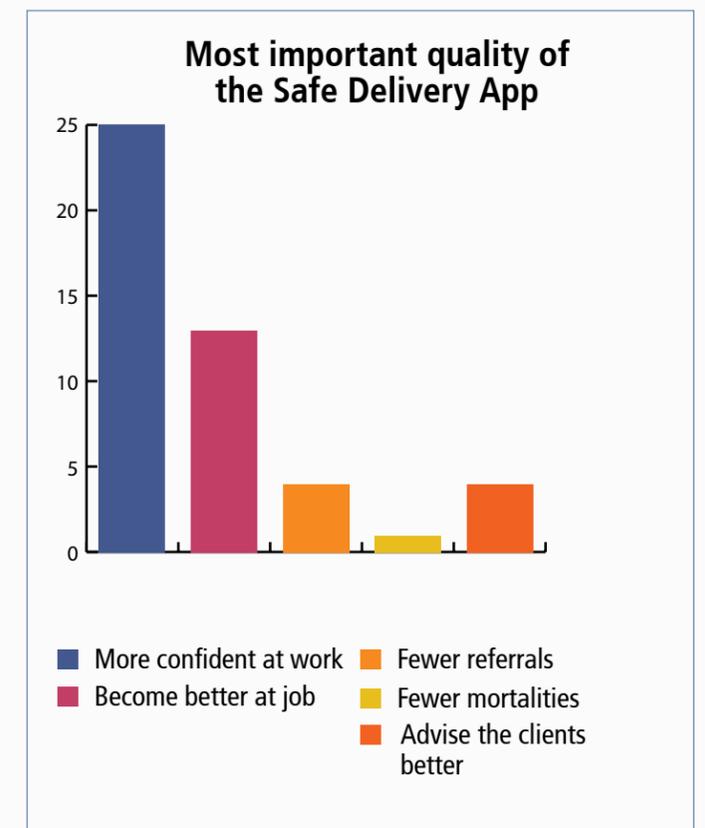
1. World Health Organization, 'Strengthening quality midwifery education for Universal Health Coverage 2030: framework for action', Geneva, 2019.



## Safe Delivery App

Over an eight-month period, UNFPA conducted a pilot project of the Safe Delivery App (SDA) in partnership with the Maternity Foundation and the MoHS. The project was implemented in four districts of Sierra Leone (Western Area, Bombali, Bo and Kenema). Capacity-building was provided for 47 midwives from five districts in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC) with the use of a smart phone.

The SDA leverages the growing ubiquity of mobile phones to provide life-saving information and guidance through easy-to-understand animated instruction videos, action cards, drug lists and a learning platform. The SDA is downloaded to a smart phone or tablet while connected to the internet, but afterwards can be used completely offline. During the pilot, an introductory training was provided to the midwives and consisted of baseline data collection, distribution of the SDA, and end line data collection. The chart on the right highlights the evaluative results from the midwives' use of the App during the eight-month period.



**150** student midwives enrolled

**949** cumulative total of competent midwives graduated in Sierra Leone since 2010

**98** midwives graduated with UNFPA funding

## Policy guidelines for preceptorship

UNFPA supported the MoHS in establishing a systems approach to preceptorship to develop and validate a set of policy guidelines, 'National Policy and Guidelines on Preceptorship', for production and dissemination. This policy will inform all actions on preceptorship henceforth. Additionally, 52 preceptors were equipped with preceptorship skills for improved clinical teaching for competency-building.

## Task shifting for the delivery of EmONC services

In 2019, UNFPA supported 16 new students in the surgical assistants training programme delivered through the non-governmental organisation (NGO), Capacare. Twenty students graduated from the three-year programme and were deployed to various hospitals across the country to provide critically required surgical services, including caesarean sections. In addition, UNFPA supported professional development courses on surgical skills for 51 medical doctors, 20 surgical assistants and community health officers from around the country. Last year, with support from UNFPA, 30 new students enrolled and 17 students graduated from the 18-month nurse anaesthetist training programme. All the graduates were deployed to district hospitals to support the provision of CEmONC services.

## Supporting quality improvement

In partnership with Doctors with Africa CUAMM, UNFPA supported the delivery of quality CEmONC services in three regional hospitals: Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, Bo Government Hospital and Makeni Government Hospital. Through this support, the hospitals benefited from in-house expert obstetricians and midwives who also provided on-the-job training for local staff. Equipment, supplies and buffer stock of essential maternal health medications were distributed. Quarterly blood campaigns were conducted and support was given to regular blood donors. As a result of these contributions, 14,539 women and girls directly benefited from interventions to manage direct obstetric complications, of which 4,696 were caesarean sections. The results were evident with a clear reduction of the direct obstetric case fatality rate from 2.18 per cent to 1.25 per cent. All maternal deaths which occurred in these hospitals were audited and recorded and the recommendations were used to strengthen the quality of care in these facilities. Over 200 doctors from the three hospitals were also trained in various aspects of EmONC to enable them to provide quality services. Additionally, the doctors were trained in quality improvement methodologies to enable them to provide improved services to women and girls.

Following the establishment of the Quality Management Programme at the MoHS, UNFPA provided furniture and equipment needed for the proper functioning of the office. The programme also supported the training of service providers in quality improvement and conducted quarterly monitoring and supportive supervision of 36 facilities, which form the maternal and newborn quality of care network being implemented by the Ministry.

## Comprehensive management of obstetric fistula

UNFPA is the main agency funding fistula interventions in the country. In partnership with Aberdeen Women's Centre, Haikal and the MoHS, UNFPA restores dignity and hope through a multi-faceted set of services for fistula clients and survivors to ensure holistic restoration.

In 2019, through UNFPA support to Aberdeen Women's Centre, 104 vesico-vaginal/recto-vaginal fistula surgical repairs undertaken. Radio talk shows were aired in nine local languages through 10 community radio stations providing information on the availability of services. Public notices were screened in 14 districts and reached 8,630 people with vital education needed for prevention, referral and treatment of women with the condition. Through Haikal, 50 obstetric fistula survivors received skills training in income generating activities such as soap-making, tailoring, tie-dyeing, weaving, needlework, agriculture and adult literacy and numeracy lessons. Upon graduation, they received seed money for livelihood activities for their reintegration into their communities.





## Surgical community health officers serving the community and saving lives: Seibatu Kemoh's story

A shortage of qualified professional health staff and limited capacities in training institutions are identified as key challenges in the health sector in Sierra Leone. In 2008, only 10 surgeons were working in the public sector to serve a population of 5.7 million. The limited availability of surgical services in the country for the last few decades, means that an estimated 25 per cent of the population has an untreated surgical condition needing attention, whilst 25 per cent of deaths were associated with a surgical condition that might have benefited from surgical care.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), and with funds from UK aid and technical support from UNFPA, CapaCare is currently training medical doctors and community health officers to perform basic life-saving surgery at the district hospital level. The two-year postgraduate programme will contribute to addressing the unmet need for accessible and affordable surgical care within a short time frame.

## Seibatu Kemoh's story

One such person to benefit from the training was Seibatu Kemoh, a surgical community health officer based at Bo Hospital. "It was because of my passion for obstetrics and because I wanted to save lives, that I decided to register for the Surgical Training Programme run by CapaCare and supported by UNFPA," explained Seibatu.

Seibatu started her career as a community health officer in Mgalu community health centre, a remote area in Bo District, after graduating in 2010 from Njala University in community health studies. During her four years working in Mgalu, offering women ante and post-natal care and assisting with deliveries, she became frustrated with maternal deaths arising from obstetric complications that could have been prevented with better resources and improved knowledge and skills.

Whilst Seibatu was working at the community health centre, a colleague who was already registered in the Surgical Training Programme recommended that Seibatu apply for the course. In May 2014 she became one of only four female students to enroll on the course since its inception in 2011. Since the programme started in 2011, there have been 44 graduates, four of them women.

## Training

CapaCare's Surgical Training Programme funded by UK aid, enables students to handle the most common surgical and obstetrical emergencies that, without treatment, would lead to disability or death. The training curriculum follows the Integrated Management of Emergency and Essential Surgical Care recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). UNFPA provides support to CapaCare with the training of community health officers in the Surgical Training Programme and medical doctors in basic surgical and obstetrical skills. UNFPA also engages surgical providers in continuous professional development, conducts monitoring and supervision on surgical and obstetrical activities, and supports the deployment and graduation of Surgical Training Programme trainees.

All candidates in Sierra Leone are initially trained for six to nine months at the Masanga Hospital in Tonkolili district. During this period, students are supervised by resident surgeons and attend a series of training modules by visiting national and international trainers. Upon completing the initial training, students are posted on six-month rotations to a number of partner hospitals in Sierra Leone. This ensures that they get sufficient exposure under the supervision of highly skilled tutors. After two years of training, students must pass final exams and for community health officers, the training is followed by a one-year surgical and obstetrical placement.

## Challenges and successes

Seibatu completed her first six months training at Masanga Hospital learning basic surgical skills, followed by an eight-month surgical rotation at Magbence Hospital in Makeni, and eight months at St John of God Hospital, Lunsar, in Port Loko district.

Seibatu graduated in 2017 despite many challenges, including the Ebola outbreak which interrupted her training for six months. But her biggest challenge came in the form of resistance from doctors who believed that surgery should only be performed by medical doctors or surgeons, and ideally only by men. Seibatu had to prove that, as a woman and as a surgical community health officer, she was proficient in her surgical and obstetrical duties. She has achieved this by performing many successful surgeries including hernia operations, appendectomies and caesarean sections over the past two years.

Seibatu has been working in Bo Hospital since January 2018 and says that in her first 18 months as a surgical community health officer, she has saved many lives. Remembering one case in particular, a young woman with a ruptured ectopic pregnancy, who lost more than a litre of blood and went into shock, Seibatu said, "I had five minutes to react and save her life. It is these success stories that keep me going through the difficult times."

## Chapter 2

# Ensuring the sustainability of family planning services



Family planning is a key life-saving intervention for mothers and their children. In Sierra Leone, UNFPA supports a holistic approach to family planning from the procurement of commodities to the training of providers and effective service delivery to reach women and adolescents at the last mile. In 2019, UNFPA supplied over \$3.1 million worth of contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines with funding from UK aid and the UNFPA Supplies programme.

### Securing commodities and improving supply chain management

The family planning Technical Working Group was strengthened and its meetings created a platform which enhanced the capacity of the Government to provide rights-based voluntary family planning services. UNFPA continued to provide regular support for coordination, advocacy, resource mobilization and monitoring functions for the smooth implementation of activities of reproductive health commodity security – family planning (RHCS-FP) initiatives in the country. According to the 2019 UNFPA Supplies Survey, UNFPA supported the availability and provision of at least three modern contraceptives in over 99 per cent of government service delivery points. As the country still faces challenges of stock-outs at different levels of service delivery with about 77.1 per cent having experienced stock out of any of the modern contraceptive methods in the period of three months, UNFPA continues to support the government both technically and financially to strengthen the supply chain, accreditation standards and to improve the quality of education of students.

### Scaling up interventions for contraceptive provision

In 2019, 1,157 service providers were trained to provide quality family planning services. Of these, 472 were midwives and nurses trained in the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives, including the post-partum intra-uterine device and short-term methods. Fifteen doctors were also trained in the intra-caesarean postpartum intra-uterine device. This training facilitated the introduction of post-partum family planning services in the country.

UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the development of a First-Time Adolescent Mothers Programme with technical support from the WHO. The programme aims to improve contraceptive use and reduce repeat pregnancies among adolescent girls whilst supporting them in providing good care to their children.

UNFPA supported two implementing partners, MoHS and Planned Parenthood Association, in providing integrated sexual reproductive health and family planning services to clients through outreach and static delivery points in all the districts. Services included long-term and short-term family planning services, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, antenatal care and postnatal services.

In 2019, through UNFPA's support for family planning services, 373,570 couple years of protection were achieved (the estimated protection provided by contraceptive methods in a one-year period). As a result, 1,251 maternal deaths and 66,573 unsafe abortions were averted, and 160,737 unintended pregnancies prevented. A total of 538,000 clients were provided with family planning services and information. There were 253,000 additional users of modern contraception.

## Innovations to strengthen family planning provision: Piloting the Firefly App



The piloting of the Firefly App, led by UNFPA, in partnership with the MoHS and UNICEF, and funded by UNFPA headquarters, began in May 2019 to address the unmet need for family planning in the country.

The Firefly App is a mobile application that aims to reduce stock-outs of family planning commodities at health facilities serving large communities by facilitating consistent, accurate and timely data reporting for health workers. The Firefly App also aims to improve capacity for reporting and reduce workloads through a digital assistant that guides workers with data collation; automates inventory calculations; and speeds up reporting. It will also provide the data required to estimate resupplies and prevent stock-outs.



## Chapter 3 Empowering young people



## National Youth Service

The National Youth Service Scheme deploys a select number of volunteer service corps to different organisations for one year to build their skills and knowledge. While serving and supporting the different organisations, the volunteer service corps also undertakes community service such as conducting health advocacy and campaigns in the localities where they reside. During their one-year service, the volunteer service corps benefit from trainings that build their skills and make them self-reliant and employable. In 2019, UNFPA supported the orientation of 371 service corps through training in life skills, sexual and reproductive health, gender and GBV response and prevention to support them in carrying out their community service.

## Integrating comprehensive sexuality education

In June 2019, UNFPA with funding from Irish Aid, worked with Marie Stopes Sierra Leone to support the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education in reviewing the 2015 basic education curriculum using the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Sexuality Education Review and Assessment Tool. UNFPA supported a number of multi-stakeholder workshops and field consultations to collaboratively assess the strengths and gaps within curricula, institutions, and legal and policy frameworks. As a result, a report on the integration of comprehensive sexuality education in primary and junior secondary schools was produced.

In December 2019, UNFPA seized the opportunity of the establishment of the Sexual Reproductive Health Taskforce in December 2019 to spearhead the integration of comprehensive sexuality education into the primary and junior secondary school curriculum. The Sexual Reproductive Health Taskforce – co-chaired by the Chief Education Officer of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and the UNFPA Sierra Leone Country Representative – is made up of a selected group of education practitioners, donors, partners, civil society, local council, religious and community leaders. The Taskforce was established to identify bottlenecks that restricted girls' access to education, establish a curriculum for comprehensive sexuality education, and harmonise the disparate, ongoing activities of the various partners under a single umbrella for girls' rights.

## Supporting out-of-school adolescent girls



In 2019, UNFPA continued to implement the Girls Access to Education and Services (GATES) project with financial support from Irish Aid. The GATES Project focused on addressing the needs of out-of-school adolescent girls participating in community learning centres across the country, supported by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. It targeted in-school adolescents to prevent dropouts due to teenage pregnancy. To implement the project, UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, the MoHS, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and two NGOs, the Fambul Initiative Network for Equality (FINE) and Rainbo Initiative. The GATES Project was launched in September 2018 and ended in November 2019.

In 2019, the GATES project achieved the following:



5,992 out-of-school girls were reached with life skills, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV prevention and response information in 40 community learning centres



1,165 girls were provided with back-to-school kits and supported for re-entry into the formal education system



61,760 students in 196 schools were reached with SRHR and GBV prevention and response information, and referrals where required



4 community learning centres were rehabilitated and 10 centres provided with additional seating accommodation



10,000 people were reached through student-led GBV and comprehensive sexuality education awareness-raising events completed in six districts



92 newly appointed guidance and counselling teachers received induction and good practices training



2,158 female caregivers were engaged to build support for adolescent well-being through 40 mothers' clubs.



93 healthcare workers were trained in clinical management of sexual assault



24 communities were reached with outreach sensitization sessions on GBV and referral pathways to create demand for the Rainbo Initiative services in Bo and Makeni districts



505 survivors of GBV accessed medical and psychosocial support services. One hundred and nine survivors were supported with access to justice, of which 26 cases were successfully prosecuted



2,155 men, boys and community stakeholders were engaged in building positive gender perspectives and promoting positive messages on SRHR and GBV within their communities



4,615 adolescents were engaged in community awareness-raising of GBV prevention and response through events lead by boys' clubs supported by FINE SL



## UNFPA enables national youth corps volunteers to reach their full potential: Abu's story

"Volunteering can help people out of poverty by giving them new skills, confidence, and enabling them to socially integrate into different social groups," said 27-year-old Abu Kallon, one of three national youth corps volunteering at UNFPA in Sierra Leone. "I would like to encourage every young graduate to see the National Youth Service Scheme as an opportunity to realise their dreams. Being a volunteer can transform your life," he added. After studying at Njala University in Bo District and being awarded a BSc with honours in sociology, Abu was selected as a national youth corps volunteer, and is now working at UNFPA in the maternal health and family planning cluster.

Sierra Leone has a population of just over 7 million, of which approximately 2.7 million are young people aged 15–35 years old. According to the 2014 World Bank Sierra Leone Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate is higher among young people than those aged 35 and above. A lack of skills and experience is cited as one of the main reasons. As a measure to reduce the high youth unemployment rate in the country, the Ministry of Youth Affairs established the National Youth Service Scheme.

The scheme is designed to equip young graduates with the necessary skills and work experience to make them attractive to employers and will contribute to achieving the demographic dividend. The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older). UNFPA supported the official launch of the National Youth Service Scheme by the Vice-President in September 2018. UNFPA provided SRHR training for the first cohort of 200 national youth corps volunteers.

### Advocating on youth issues

"I've always been a young leader in terms of mobilising the community. I was a public relations officer for the Nyandeyama Youth in Action for Development Group in Kenema District before I went to university, informing the public about the work of the Group and representing them at youth forums. After university, I worked as an intern writing human interest stories for Kiss 104 FM, a local radio station in Bo District," explained Abu.

Having volunteered at UNFPA since January 2019, Abu has seen just how important the mandate of UNFPA is in tackling the high rates of teenage pregnancy and maternal mortality. Sierra Leone has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world with an estimated 1,360 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

"With my sociology degree I wanted to create positive changes in society. We have a lot of societal problems in Sierra Leone such as gender-based violence," remarked Abu. "Working for UNFPA gives me the chance to work for an organisation whose mandate includes ending as gender-based violence and other harmful practices against women and girls," he added.

### Educating children in local schools

During their placement at UNFPA, the three national youth corps volunteers are expected to raise awareness of teenage pregnancy, GBV and other aspects of UNFPA's work in local communities in Freetown. Abu and his fellow UNFPA volunteers visited students at local schools in the eastern part Freetown where there was a shortage of teachers, and the subject matter of SRHR was not being taught in the schools. The volunteers mentored and provided information on SRHR and how to prevent GBV to children aged 11–14.

### Contributing to innovative projects

At UNFPA, Abu has been undertaking research for the project that uses the Firefly app to help end the unmet need for family planning. Staff from the maternal health and family planning cluster submitted their Firefly initiative to the UNFPA Innovations Department and it was selected along with seven other UNFPA teams around the world. All eight UNFPA teams participated in a UNFPA Innovation Boot Camp in Munich, Germany, in July 2019. Abu cites being a part of the Firefly team and supporting the proposal, as a great personal achievement.

### Future plans

According to Abu, UNFPA in Sierra Leone is empowering young people by giving national youth corps volunteers the opportunity to develop their skills and provide valuable experience during their placement with the organisation. "My dream in the future is to be part of a society free from violence, and where every woman gives birth by choice and not by chance. I would like to be a communications specialist and a researcher, drawing on my experience at the radio station and at UNFPA," said Abu confidently.

# Chapter 4

## Eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices



### Ending child marriage

Last year, UNFPA worked with NGOs Women in Crisis Movement, MATCOPS, FINE-SL and the Office of the First Lady in the final year of the global programme to achieve the following:

- It reached 6,763 adolescent girls' club members in safe spaces with age-appropriate information on sexual reproductive health, life skills, financial literacy and livelihood skills using the government-validated and standardized national life skills manual. Some of these girls now serve as mentors or ambassadors in their communities, building networks to support and provide information to other girls, who were not part of the clubs, on their experiences in the safe spaces.
- Enhanced community ownership and sustainability of the global End Child Marriage Programme, through district-level Crisis Response Groups set up in four districts (Kambia, Port Loko, Bonthe and Pujehun). The groups consist of community stakeholders, gatekeepers and service providers and they actively monitor and follow up on reports of any child marriage incidences for appropriate action. A total of 234 mentors were linked with community stakeholders and Crisis Response Group members to monitor child marriage in the communities.
- UNFPA provided technical and financial support to the First Lady's 'Hands off Our Girls' Campaign, which was rolled out in 14 districts across the country, reaching teachers, school pupils, traditional leaders, wives of paramount chiefs, religious and government functionaries, young people, the media, civil society and local council authorities and soweis. The campaign reached over 1,000,000 participants with messages on the urgency of ending child marriage, teenage pregnancy and rape. A total of 149 Paramount Chiefs made an official commitment to end child marriage and these local authorities were crowned Champions of the Hands off Our Girls Campaign in their various districts.

### Preventing female genital mutilation

In addressing female genital mutilation (FGM), UNFPA in 2019 continued advocating to end FGM in Sierra Leone at a high level with policy makers and media representatives. At the community level, UNFPA collaborated with Care International, with financial support from Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to train and empower young people to advocate to end FGM. A youth-led network was established and conducted school and community awareness-raising activities in the Western Area district of Freetown on two international days of observance, International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM and International Day of the Girl Child.

### Youth advisory panel

With generous funding from Irish Aid, UNFPA supported the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy to establish a youth advisory panel consisting of 16 dynamic youth from across the country. The Youth Advisory Panel is tasked with gathering information and advising the Government and its partners on the gaps preventing adolescents from accessing reproductive health information and services, and advocating for sexual and reproductive health rights countrywide. In 2019, the youth advisory panel participated in two Multi-sectoral Technical Committee meetings hosted by the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and advised partners on how to reduce the high rates of teenage pregnancy and child marriage in the country from a youth perspective. The panel members also conducted community advocacy events in five districts in the country with the support of health and social workers, where they reached over 150 young people, promoting sexual and reproductive health rights. They were also integral in supporting the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy in reviewing their communication strategy, to ensure effective communication around sexual and reproductive health for young people.

## Preventing and responding to gender-based violence



UNFPA supported the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs in strengthening stakeholder engagement in GBV prevention and response. The stakeholders comprised Regional Gender-Based Violence Coordination Committees, social workers, the Family Support Unit of Sierra Leone Police, District Education Officers, guidance counsellors and community learning centre coordinators, in Bombali, Port Loko, Kenema and Bo districts. The training equipped committees to coordinate and enhance the referral pathways for GBV victims/survivors to access services in their localities.

In 2019, quarterly radio discussion programmes on GBV prevention and response were held in Pujehun, Moyamba, Kambia, Port Loko, Kailahun and Tonkolili districts. Through the radio discussion programmes, funded by UNFPA, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs disseminated key messages on GBV to approximately 30 per cent of community members through radio coverage in the respective districts.

A total of 120 adolescent girls and young women were supported with livelihood skills for self-reliance in three districts (Kailahun, Kono and Freetown) for GBV prevention and other forms of harmful practices that they had been exposed to. They were provided with training materials together with sexual and reproductive health and GBV information which enhanced their knowledge and reduced their vulnerability to harmful practices, while their unmet needs for family planning and reproductive health information were also addressed. Out of the 120 that graduated, 40 were provided with start-up kits to form cooperative groups within their communities to maximize income generation and improve skills service retention for communities prone to GBV.

UNFPA worked in partnership with the Rainbo Initiative to provide services to victims and survivors of GBV. Eighteen Rainbo Initiative Staff (five Centre Managers, five Psychosocial Counsellors, five Field Liaison Officers and three Programme Staff) were trained on paralegal skills and the core concepts of GBV to be better equipped to provide the appropriate care and services to the victims and survivors. Staff at Primary Health Units were also trained (49 in Bo and 44 in Makeni).

Through this support, with Rainbo Initiative providing free medical certification for litigation, 109 survivors accessed justice and 26 cases were successfully prosecuted. In 2019, an estimated 1,785 survivors of GBV were reached through clinical, psychosocial and legal services.

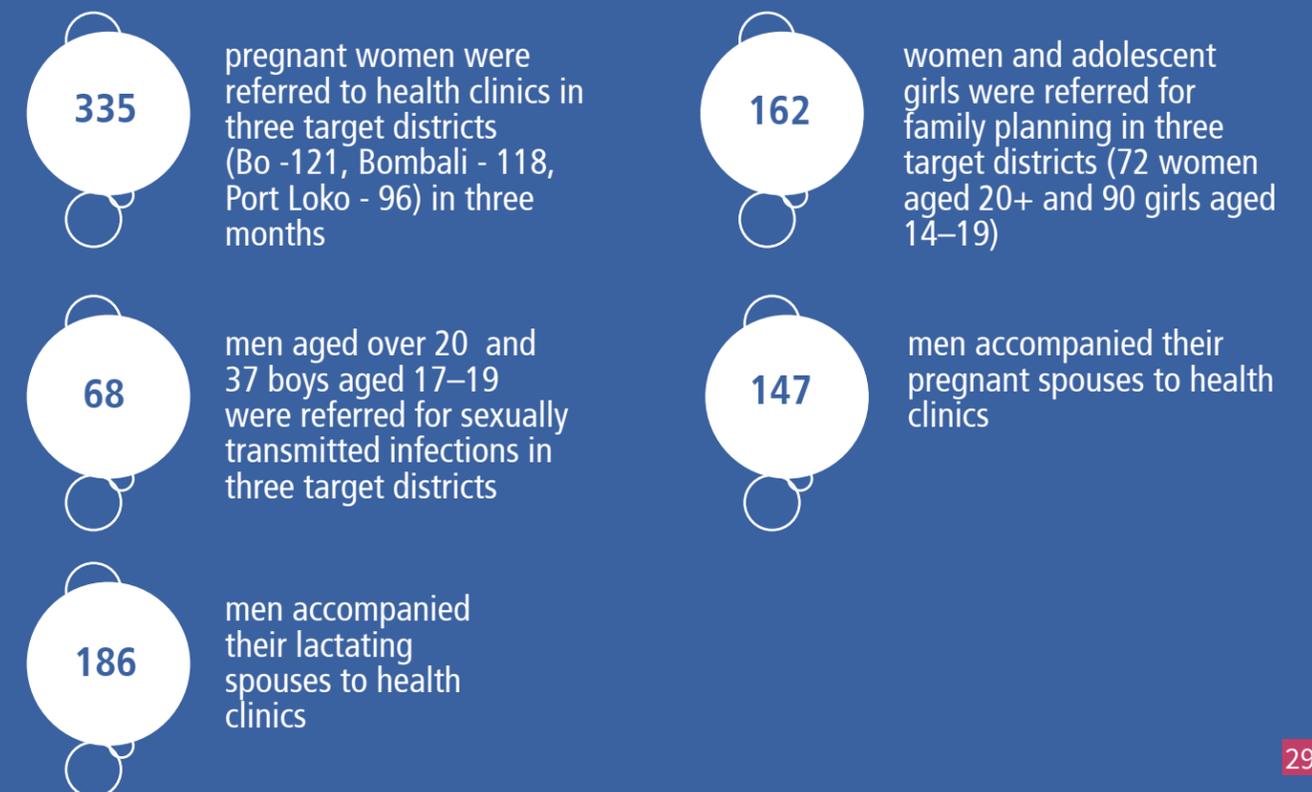
## Male engagement – Husband Schools

The Husband School model supported by UNFPA as a male engagement strategy has provided the opportunity and space for men to actively participate in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Last year, UNFPA supported the development of manuals to standardize six sessions in Husband Schools in Bo, Bombali and Port Loko districts. One hundred and fifty husbands were reached with information on sexual and reproductive health and maternal health including family planning services. As a result of this intervention, 17 members of the Husband Schools for the first time agreed to and accompanied their wives to the PHU to access family planning services (six in Kapeteh, four in Binkolo of Bombali, four in Korinbondo, and three in Bagbor district).



Eight fathers in the Husband Schools consented to their sexually active adolescent daughters opting for family planning in Bo district. The use of Male Advocacy Peer Educators (MAPEs) is pivotal to the conduct of these schools. They facilitate the sessions, coordinate the activities of the schools, collect and record data on antenatal/postnatal care referrals, family planning uptake and the number of men accompanying spouses to health units.

As a result of the work of MAPEs the following were achieved:





## New youth advisory panel established to end child marriage and reduce teenage pregnancy

Every year, a large number of adolescent girls in Sierra Leone are forced into early marriages and drop out of school to become housewives and young mothers. Due to a lack of knowledge of reproductive health and contraceptives, many adolescent girls become pregnant and have no other choice than to live with or marry the father of their child.

Adolescent pregnancy and child marriage continue to be challenging issues in Sierra Leone, with one in six women aged 20–49 having married by the age of 15 years old, and 28 per cent of adolescents aged 15 to 19 having begun childbearing. In Sierra Leone, adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years are at a high risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, with 47 per cent of female deaths amongst adolescents being maternal. This places young girls in situations where they are no longer able to reach their full potential and contribute effectively to the economic development of the country. With girls dropping out of school, leaving them unable to meet their educational achievements, the levels of literacy and poverty rates in communities increase.

## Youth advisory panel

With funding from Irish Aid, UNFPA supported the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy to establish a youth advisory panel consisting of 16 dynamic youth from across the country. The youth advisory panel aims to empower young people, especially girls, by encouraging them and people in their communities to invest in their education as a way to improve their communities.

In search of the best young people to be members of the youth advisory panel, staff from the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and UNFPA travelled all over the country to meet and assess potential members. The team met close to 100 youth from diverse backgrounds, most of whom had a tough upbringing. Sixteen candidates from 14 districts who actively advocated for the empowerment of young people and were passionate about reducing teenage pregnancy and ending child marriage were selected as members of the youth advisory panel. The diverse panel includes a young mother and persons with differing abilities, but most importantly, all members are advocates seeking positive changes in their communities.

In June, UNFPA provided technical support through a four-day orientation where the selected members were trained in communication and advocacy, leadership, core life skills and data reporting and participated in interactive sessions on GBV, gender equality and reproductive health and rights.

The members expressed their satisfaction with the sessions, with one of the panelists, Fatmata Jalloh saying, “The orientation was excellent. I learned and was inspired a lot. Normally persons with disabilities [like myself] are not involved [in such activities] but this opportunity has levelled the playing ground for everyone and I learned to work as a team.”

## Young people championing for change

Since the orientation, the panel members have become ‘youth champions’ within their own communities, advocating for an end to child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Throughout the year, UNFPA will be supporting the youth champions to undertake at least one activity within their district. They are mentored and guided on the most effective ways to advocate and create awareness of these issues in their community in order to influence change.

The youth champions are pivotal in voicing the concerns of young people in their communities. To support them to advocate effectively, UNFPA is providing them with mobile devices to gather information on young people’s experiences of reproductive health services, and their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health. They are also provided with vital information on sexual and reproductive health, and GBV referral pathways that they can disseminate through their networks.

# Chapter 5

## Commemorating ICPD25 and UNFPA@50



In September 1994, the United Nations coordinated an International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. At that landmark conference, 179 governments adopted a Programme of Action, which is the steering document for UNFPA that recognises reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality as the pathway to sustainable development.

In 2019, UNFPA marked both the twenty-fifth anniversary of this groundbreaking conference and the fiftieth anniversary of UNFPA. The Nairobi Summit in November 2019 revisited the Programme of Action of the ICPD and marked the beginning of the final push to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the coming decade. The Summit aimed to mobilise political and financial support, galvanize partnerships and reach a consensus on how to implement the ICPD agenda, to achieve Agenda 2030. It offered an inclusive platform for a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders to come together around the universal principle of rights and choices for all.

Throughout the year, from May to October, UNFPA in Sierra Leone organised a number of events to advance the objectives of ICPD25 right up to the Nairobi Summit and to celebrate UNFPA's fiftieth anniversary to raise awareness of it among the wider public. Events were organised on planned international days of observance which included the International Day of the Midwife, International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, World Population Day, International Youth Day and International Day of the Girl Child. All of the events culminated in the high-level global conference co-convened by UNFPA in headquarters to further galvanize partnerships and direct collective energy to advance the objectives of the organisation.

### ICPD25 and UNFPA@50 events

#### International Day of the Midwife

On 2 May 2019, a march took place in Freetown as a prelude to the International Day of the Midwife celebration and awards event. Over 150 midwives paraded through the principal streets of Freetown, dancing to the tunes of a brass band. A number of midwives held up placards with messages to educate the public about their role in promoting maternal health. Fifty outstanding midwives (to mark UNFPA@50) were recognised with awards for their valuable contributions in the areas of education, regulation, association and service delivery in Sierra Leone. In addition, UNFPA also distributed mama and baby packs to 50 pregnant women and new mothers.

UNFPA in partnership with the Sierra Leone Midwives Association organised a week of activities to celebrate the International Day of the Midwife. First, a two-day capacity-building session, with funding from UNFPA, was held with 15 executive members of the SLMA, using the Midwifery Associations Capacity Assessment Tool to assess progress and determine gaps for quality improvements in governance and functioning. An action plan was developed to guide actions for organisational strengthening. On the second day, the executives received a UNFPA donation of over 141 mama and baby kits to be distributed to pregnant women and lactating mothers as part of UNFPA's contribution to the celebration and to also support mothers from deprived communities.





On 6 May, UNFPA staff appeared on the Wake Up Salone breakfast show at African Young Voices Television to discuss the International Day of the Midwife, with the theme 'Midwives: Defenders of Women's Rights'. UNFPA staff and other guests on the show talked about ICPD25 and the fiftieth anniversary of UNFPA.

## Media engagement to discuss obstetric fistula

On 23 May, the UNFPA Sierra Leone country representative attended the 'Drive Time Show' on AfriRadio 105.3FM and the afternoon show on Democracy Radio 98.1 to raise awareness about fistula as a human rights violation. Joining the country representative on the show was Feremusu Kamara, assistant supervisor from Aberdeen Women's Centre, and Finah Sesay, a fistula survivor. The country representative also used the opportunity to raise awareness about ICPD25 and UNFPA@50.



## UNFPA Sierra Leone ICPD Quiz at the UN Country Team meeting

On 30 May 2019, UNFPA disseminated a quiz to raise awareness about ICPD25 and UNFPA@50 for UN heads of agency at the UN Country Team meeting. Heads of agencies were required to complete the online quiz on their mobile phones answering questions on the ICPD conference in 1994, family planning, child marriage and maternal health.

## International Day to End Obstetric Fistula



International Day to End Obstetric Fistula was observed at the Aberdeen Women's Centre on 23 May with a 'Gladi Gladi' ceremony. UNFPA has been supporting fistula management at Aberdeen Women's Centre since 2011. With UNFPA's support there have been 1,327 successful surgical repairs, 6,338 deliveries and 20,756 women and girls who have accessed family planning services. The Centre's resident fistula surgeon, who carried out 100 surgeries in 10 months in 2019, is also partially

funded by UNFPA. Working together with Haikal, UNFPA has helped with the rehabilitation and reintegration of fistula survivors in the past five years. This includes providing housing and sustenance, psychosocial support, livelihood skills training and start-up capital to empower women to develop a sustainable source of income.

At the Centre, UNFPA staff met Finah Sesay, a fistula survivor, who said, "My husband said he did not love me anymore and because of my condition and the loss of the baby, he would not let me back into the house." Many women and girls like Finah are ostracized from their communities when they develop obstetric fistula.

## Third China Africa Conference on Population and Development

Under the theme 'Population Data Management and Universal Access to Reproductive Health as Key Drivers of Sustainable Development', the 3rd China Africa Conference set about reviewing the progress made and challenges faced in implementing the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action. A youth forum was convened as part of the Conference on 26 June to encourage knowledge sharing and facilitate discussions on how to improve outcomes for young people in Africa and China.



At the Youth4Youth forum, a side event of the 3rd China Africa Conference on population and development, UNFPA Sierra Leone staff engaged in a panel discussion. The discussion centred on the role of young people in accelerating South-South Cooperation, and some interventions on UNFPA's work in Sierra Leone was shared which included examples of young people being active change agents in addressing the issues of teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

## UNFPA Deputy Executive Director joins ICPD25 and UNFPA@50 celebrations

UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme), Dereje Wordofa, visited Sierra Leone in June (from the 18 to the 21 t) accompanied by UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Mabingue Ngom.

On 20 June, UNFPA marked UNFPA@50 and ICPD25 with its first exclusive red carpet screening of City of Joy, an award-winning documentary directed by Madeleine Gavin. The film centres on the first class of female students at a leadership centre located in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a region often referred to as “the worst place in the world to be a woman.” The students had suffered abuse including sexual violence and GBV during the 20-year war. Attending the leadership centre, they heal and become powerful voices of change in their country.

After screening this emotionally stirring documentary, an important ‘What’s changed?’ ICPD25 panel discussion with Mr. Wordofa was held. The panel discussion covered topics such as sexual violence and GBV, ICPD going forward and the empowerment of youth. After the interactive panel discussion, Mr. Wordofa launched the 2019 UNFPA State of World Population report, Unfinished Business: The pursuit of rights and choices for all.

A reception celebrating UNFPA@50 and ICPD25 was held with Mr. Wordofa; Mabingue Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa; Vicky the Poet; Diaka Salena Koroma from Girlz Empowered; Dr. Kim Eva Dickson, UNFPA Sierra Leone Country Representative; and Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, all of whom assisted in cutting the UNFPA@50 and ICPD25 cake.



## World Population Day

UNFPA and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development held a joint press conference on 11 July to mark World Population Day and raise awareness of ICPD25 and the forthcoming Nairobi Summit.

At the press conference, Dr. Robert Chakanda, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, said, “In Sierra Leone, since 1994, many women have gained the power to make decisions about their own bodies, including whether, when, how often and with whom to be pregnant.”



## Launch of the process to review the 2014 National Youth Policy

Speaking at the launch, UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Kim Eva Dickson said, “As we review the policy, we need to ensure UNFPA’s three transformative goals of ending preventable maternal deaths, ending the unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls are truly considered within the policy.” The Country Representative also spoke about ICPD25 and UNFPA@50 in her remarks.

## International Youth Day

With support from UNFPA, the Ministry of Youth Affairs marked International Youth Day with the theme ‘Transforming education for sustainable development’. The Ministry organised dialogues, a float parade, football games and youth debates from 9–12 August.

On 9 August, UNFPA took part in a panel discussion on the theme ‘Irregular Migration and Sexual and Reproductive Health’ together with staff from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and a Sierra Leonean migrant who had returned to the country. A UNFPA staff member spoke about reproductive health issues, ICPD25 and UNFPA@50 and encouraged the young people in the audience to access youth-friendly services. UNFPA also encouraged them to focus on and invest in their futures.



## Launch of National Population Policy

On 29 August, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development launched the new National Population Policy, with the support of UNFPA. The new Policy aims to address population dynamics through an effective response to the needs and aspirations of the expanding youth population, and by enhancing the reproductive health and rights for all Sierra Leoneans at every stage of their life. The National Population Policy received technical and financial support from UNFPA and outlines key measures to address critical population management and development issues. These issues include reproductive health and rights, reducing adolescent pregnancy, building women's empowerment, achieving education for all and reducing mortality rates, all of which align directly with UNFPA's mandate.



## ICPD25 quiz on Radio Democracy

During the first week of September, UNFPA took to the airwaves (Radio Democracy 98.1) to talk about UNFPA's work in the country and raise awareness about ICPD25. Listeners who answered questions from the ICPD25 quiz correctly visited the UNFPA Country Office to collect their prizes.



## International Day of the Girl Child

To mark International Day of the Girl Child, UNFPA staff joined the First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Fatima Maada Jabbie Bio, on a national sensitisation tour for the 'Hands off Our Girls' campaign under the theme 'Enhancing the academic welfare of the girl child'. The event in Makeni on 11 October was attended by school students, Paramount Chiefs and their wives, Her Worship Sunkarie Dan Kamara (Mayor of Makeni), Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Minister of Lands and several senior dignitaries. The next day, UNFPA Sierra Leone staff joined the First Lady in Kono district for the community sensitization event, and on both occasions she made reference to ICPD25 and UNFPA@50 and the need to achieve UNFPA's three transformative goals



## ICPD Nairobi Summit

The ICPD Nairobi Summit, which took place on 12–14 November in Kenya, aimed to re-energize the global community, breathe new life into the ICPD agenda, and sustain and amplify gains made in 1994. It also aimed to serve as a springboard for governments and other organisations to announce voluntary, global commitments, including financial ones, that would accelerate progress towards meeting the ICPD agenda goals by 2030. In partnership with the Government, the UNFPA Sierra Leone Country Office assembled a national delegation to deliver the state's own commitments on the ICPD Programme of Action. Sierra Leone was represented by a diverse and inclusive selection of the country's legislative, executive and civil society bodies, which took into consideration gender, disability and youth participation.

The Nairobi Summit was deemed a success with over 9,500 individuals in attendance and 1,250 commitments from all over the world. The Sierra Leone delegation fully participated in the Summit by engaging in panel discussions and conducting presentations. The delegation was fully involved in the global reprioritisation of SRHR and commitments were presented to mobilise the youth and planning divisions to meet the ICPD Promise and achieve the three zeros. The national delegation will begin to deliver on the commitments made at the Summit, while Parliament, UNFPA, UN Women and civil society will implement and monitor the pledges.

In line with the national commitments in the Sierra Leone Medium Term National Development Plan (2018–2023), The National Population Policy (2018) and the 2017 Family Planning 2020 Commitments, the Government of Sierra Leone made the following commitments:



Zero unmet need for family planning services by 2030



Zero preventable maternal deaths by 2030



Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030



Diversification of the sexual reproductive health and rights resource base through sustainable financing by 2030



Reduce adolescent birth rates from 125.1/1000 (2013) to 74/1000



Achieve universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights as part of universal health coverage



## New National Population Policy focuses on reproductive health and rights, women's empowerment and the demographic dividend

The National Population Policy which aims to improve the quality of life for all Sierra Leoneans was launched in August 2019. The new Policy aims to address population dynamics through an effective response to the needs and aspirations of the expanding youth population and by enhancing the reproductive health and rights for all Sierra Leoneans at every stage of their life.

UNFPA provided technical and financial support for The National Population Policy. The Policy outlines key measures to address critical population management and development issues, including reproductive health and rights, reducing adolescent pregnancy, building women's empowerment, achieving education for all and reducing mortality rates, which align directly with UNFPA's mandate.

In 1988, the first National Population Policy was formulated and approved by the Government in 1989. A Plan of Action was developed, implemented and guided with support from UNFPA. In attendance at the launch, UNFPA Sierra Leone Country Representative, Dr. Kim Eva Dickson said, "I am pleased that reproductive health and rights is a priority area in this National Population Policy." She added, "UNFPA continues to work closely with the Government to strengthen partnerships to provide sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, strengthen supply chain systems and build capacity for the delivery of rights-based family planning services to address the persistent challenges and barriers that exist."

High fertility rates coupled with a high unmet need for family planning over a long period of time have been the largest contributors to the country's very young population. With a current population of 7,092,113 in Sierra Leone, of which nearly 40 per cent (2,794, 883) of the population is aged 15–35 years, there is significant potential for economic transformation and achieving the demographic dividend. Sierra Leone is projected to have a population of 10 million by 2030, and the new National Population Policy outlines the need to increase investments in youth: their health and well-being, education and skills, employment and entrepreneurship, and in the rights and governance structures that will enable these changes and harness the demographic dividend.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Vice President, Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swarray said, "By launching our Population Policy today, our Government reiterates its commitment to improve the quality of life through the following: addressing population dynamics, enhancing the reproductive health and rights of all Sierra Leoneans, fast tracking socio-economic growth and human capital in line with projected population growth, and strengthening national capacity of relevant institutions to carry out appropriate evidence-based research on population planning and management."

The PoA of the ICPD developed in 1994 considers reproductive rights as human rights. Reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that already form part of national laws in Sierra Leone. These rights include the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, timing and spacing of their children. However, 25 years since the ICPD, challenges still exist in recognizing sexual rights, reproductive rights and ensuring universal access to contraceptives and comprehensive education for young people.

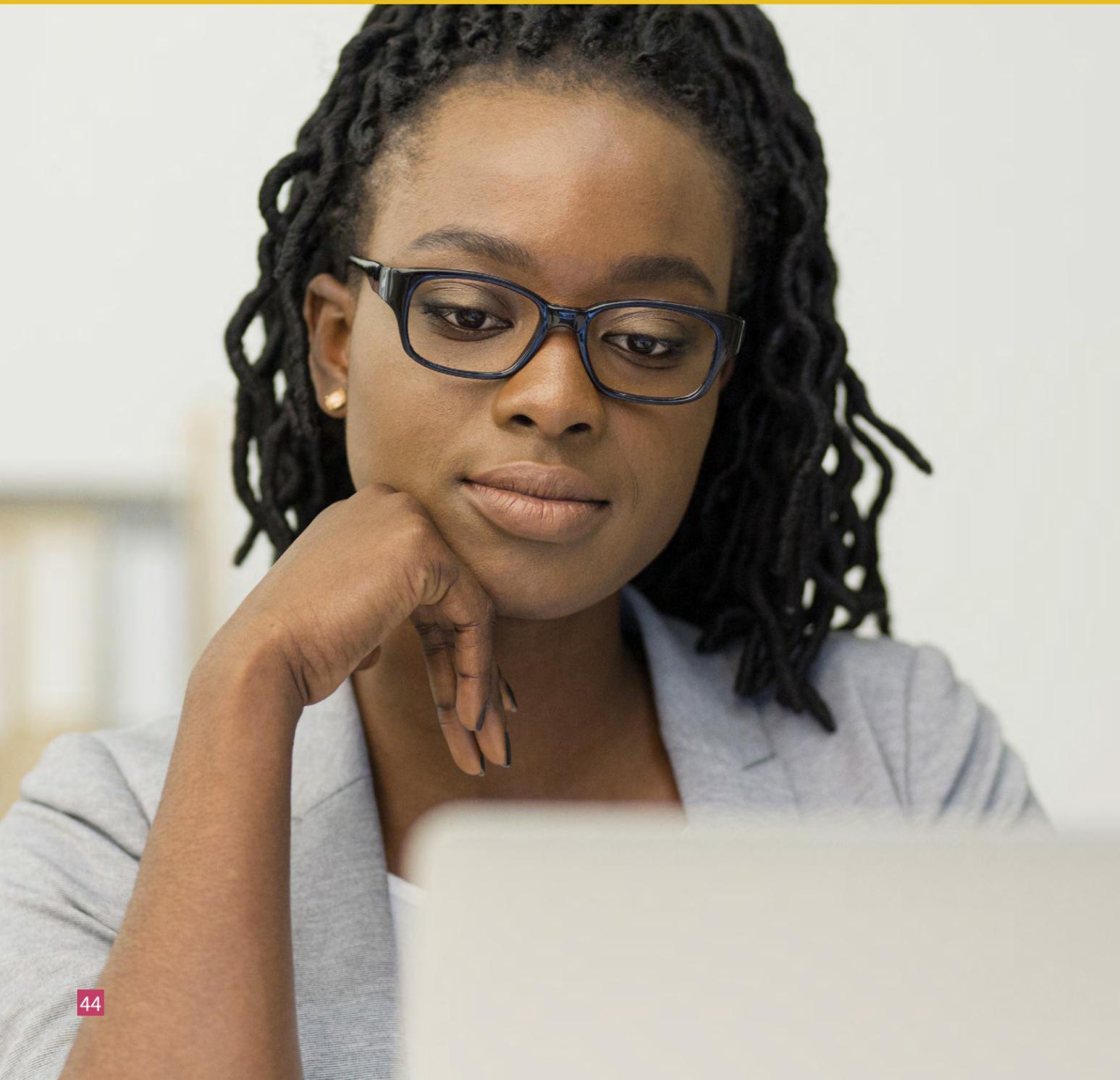
The new National Population Policy outlines that promotion of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for Government and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health, including family planning and maternal health. Strengthening legislation in maternal health is cited as a key instrument to reduce maternal mortality and will have a positive impact on maternal and child health, by moving beyond policy towards legislation to save the lives of women and children.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Robert T. Chakanda said in his statement, "Our Government aspires to establish the fundamentals of sustainable development in Sierra Leone, providing the people with its benefits and preserving the country's natural resources to fit the population size towards prosperity."

The guiding principles for the National Population Policy are also aimed at ensuring that population growth does not hinder the achievements of the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals.

# Chapter 6

## Partners and resources



### Donors

In 2019, with the invaluable contributions, both financial and non-financial, from our generous donors, UNFPA successfully completed the implementation of the sixth country programme. We express our sincere gratitude to the Governments of Canada, China, Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom for their continued commitment in supporting our mandate to prioritise the rights, needs and dignity of the most vulnerable women and girls in Sierra Leone.

Total sources of fund in 2019 (USD)

9,536,467



Appreciating our partners for their support in 2019



## Implementing partners

Last year, UNFPA worked successfully with 23 Implementing Partners (government ministries and departments, national and international NGOs, civil society organisations, development partners and UN agencies) to deliver our programmes. We appreciate this collaborative work with all partners that has enabled us to make exceptional strides towards achieving our three transformative goals and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

### Government

Ministry of Health and Sanitation

Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs

Ministry of Youth Affairs

Ministry of Finance

National School of Midwifery - Freetown

Nurse Anesthetists Training

Office of the Chief Medical Officer

Directorate of Drugs and Medical Supplies

School of Midwifery - Makeni

Statistics Sierra Leone

Office of the First Lady

National School and Adolescent Health Programme/  
National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage  
Pregnancy

### National NGO

Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone  
(PPASL)

Aberdeen Women's Centre

Rainbo Initiative

Women in Crisis Movement Sierra Leone

Matei Initiative Empowerment (MATCOPS)

Fambul Initiative Network for Equality (FINE)  
Sierra Leone

School of Midwifery - Bo CARITAS

Haikal Foundation

### International NGO

CapaCare

Doctors with Africa



## SIERRA LEONE

United Nations Population Fund  
12-16 New Signal Hill Road  
Off Congo Cross  
Freetown  
Sierra Leone

Tel: +232 79 327330  
Email: [sierra-leone.office@unfpa.org](mailto:sierra-leone.office@unfpa.org)  
Website: [sierraleone.unfpa.org](http://sierraleone.unfpa.org)

Follow us on:

