

UNFPA 2013 in Pictures

JANUARY

Distribution of medical equipment and supplies in Health centers

In January 2013, UNFPA distributed medical equipment and supplies to 8 health centres, which have been selected by the Ministry of Health to integrate reproductive health services for youth and adolescents in the formal health system. They include two health centres in Bissau and one health centre in each of the regions of Biombo, Oio, Bafata, Bubaque, Quinara and Cacheu.



Communities of the Mansabá Sector, Oio Region, have pledged to respect Human Rights, including ceasing harmful practices against Women and Children's health.



Declaration reading by a member of the Committee of Community Management

In January 14, 2013, the community of Mansodé, in the Oio region, hosted an official ceremony to declare respect for Human Rights, including ceasing any harmful practices against women and children's health. In the document called the Mansodé Declaration, 42 communities pledged in front of government officials, partners and civil society to respect and promote Human Rights in its integrity.

This act constitutes the third and final step in a cycle of declarations made by the communities of the Contuboele and Pirada sectors, in the regions of Bafatá and Gabu, under a joint program promoted by UNICEF, UNFPA and the Bis-

sau-Guinean Government in a partnership with TOSTAN, an international NGO that aims to promote and reinforce the role of any community as a main actor in long-term development and behavioral change concerning the gradual abandon of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.

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FEBRUARY



Imam signing the National Islamic Conference resolution

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February) was marked by the passing of a significant resolution of the National Islamic Conference of Guinea Bissau concluding that the FGM/C is a traditional practice not endorsed by the Sharia, Sunna or the Islamic jurisprudents consensus. The signed resolution condemns this harmful practice causing serious danger to women's health.

The event was witnessed by the president of the National Assembly, the Minister of Health; the UN Resident Coordinator and other members of the UN Country Team; the President of the Parliamentary Specialized Committee for Women's and Children's Affairs; members of Islamic organizations, and civil society. The event was hailed as a major milestone in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation.

FEBRUARY

Thematic Gender Group retreat

A Thematic Gender Group retreat on Gender Integrated Approach of Equality and Equity (GIAEE) for Focal Points and gender group members took place from 11 to 13 February 2013 in Bissau. The main objective was to share knowledge and tools with the participants, enabling them to support agencies, missions and programs. This will enable a better implementation of Gender Integrated Approach to Equality and Equity and ensure a more appropriate follow-up and evaluation of national strategic planning documents.

The session was facilitated by a team of Advisers of UNFPA and UNDP Regional Office in Dakar/ Senegal, and the presence of Ms. Violet Kakyomya, UNFPA Resident Representative and UN Gender Thematic Group Chairperson.



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MARCH

Preparation for 8 March, international women's day



On 6 March 2013 the Women's Organization of Guinea-Bissau conducted a peaceful march against domestic violence and young girl's rights' violation, as part of the International Women's Day Commemorations. Hundreds participated in the march that started at Chapa de Bissau and ended at the Ministry of Justice.

UNFPA took the opportunity to share the study: Violence Against Women in Guinea-Bissau with members of the Organization aiming at further inform and communicate on the GBV situation in Guinea

MARCH

UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Economy and Regional Integration

On 6 March, 2013, the Ministry of Economy and Regional integration (MEIR) and UNFPA signed agreement for Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2013. The AWP has been signed by Ms. Violet Kakyoamya, UNFPA Representative, in the presence of the General Directors of planning and of National Institute of Statistics.



UNFPA took the opportunity to deliver a vehicle to support monitoring and coordination activities of the programme. This action is an important sign of the support of the UNFPA for best quality to follow-up the programme of cooperation and support activities relating to collecting and managing data in the country.

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APRIL

UNFPA Supports Campaign To Prevent Cervical Cancer



Within the framework of the cooperation between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the UN, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to organize on 28 March, a meeting to launch the new campaign to prevent cervical cancer.

It was also an opportunity to award the NGO “Mujer y Madre” for the health service it delivered for the well-fare of the women in the country.

The new campaign will last from 25 March to 6 April 2013 and it is aimed at reaching 56 women and following up 150 others treated during the 2011-2012 campaign.

Reducing Maternal And Neonatal Mortality

Within the framework of the partnership between the United Nations and the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, a capacity assessment of the national and regional reference hospitals for the provision of complete Emergency Obstetric and Neo-natal Care (EmONC) started in Guinea Bissau on 8 April and is expected to continue for the next three weeks.



This capacity analysis is being undertaken with the technical and financial support of WHO, UNFPA UNICEF and UNAIDS and is aimed at exploring the main factors leading to the persistent maternal and neo-natal mortality figures in the country's hospital levels.

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MAY

International Day of Nurses and Midwives



UNFPA supported the National Association of Nurses and Midwives of Guinea-Bissau to commemorate the International Day of Nurses and Midwives celebrated each 12 May.

This year's commemoration was held in Quinhamel as a culmination of activities within the week dedicated to the recognition of the work of these health professionals.

The stakeholders were unanimous on the importance of the work of nurses and midwives in the health structures of the country and the indispensability of their role in health institutions.

JUNE

Strengthening Communicators' Capacity



UNFPA is supporting national partners in capacity-building for communication on development issues, particularly on issues of reproductive health. During the week of 17 to 21 June 2013, training sessions were conducted with various partners of UNFPA namely, national partners for the implementation of the country program and journalists from the network for Population and Development.

In total, 70 people from different organizations and institutions' received the training. This training will contribute to the strengthening of the visibility of the activities carried out by partners with the support of UNFPA and the documentation and dissemination of the results

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JULY

World Population Day celebration

On the occasion of commemoration World Population Day, former President of East Timor, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jose Ramos Horta has called on the authorities and population of Guinea Bissau to support adolescent girls to realize their potential. The Special Representative of the Secretary General in Guinea Bissau officiated at the ceremony and read the message of the Secretary General. The day was commemorated in the southern town of Buba, in Quinara region.



The Minister of Planning and Regional Integration reiterated the commitment of the transitional government to protect the rights of young people and called upon partners to support them in this effort. He thanked UNFPA for its support and especially for highlighting issues of great importance to the health of young people.

The UNFPA Representative read the message of the UNFPA Executive Director and called upon all partners to work together to break the cycle of adolescent pregnancy.

Other activities included the final match of a foot ball tournament for young girls, drama and music .

National consultation for re-positioning of the family planning programme

From 23 to 24 July 2013, the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Population Fund organized a national consultation for the repositioning of the Family Planning (FP) Programme

The aim of the consultation was to bring together all actors, including Government Departments, NGOs, Community Organizations, media and individuals so as to discuss the current situation of family planning in GB, the challenges, and find ways to work together to give a new momentum to the programme. Participants at the workshop discussed current activities and data on Family Planning and formulated recommendations on how to accelerate their work at all levels.

The Minister of health reiterated the importance of FP and its role in saving the lives of mothers and helping young people to realize their full potential in society through providing them with wider life choices.



UNFPA 2013 in Pictures

AUGUST

ICPD International Conference on Human Rights Conference, The Hague, Netherlands, 07 - 10 July, 2013

On 1 August, the Director General of Planning at the Ministry of Planning and Regional Integration made a presentation to cross section of Government and NGO representatives on the results of the above meeting at which he participated to represent Guinea Bissau with support from UNFPA. The conference focused on the nexus between human rights, equality, accountability and population and development, with a focus on gender, discrimination, empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights. This is one of the series of meetings and activities that are organized to review the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (CAIRO 1994) which will come to an end in 2014. Guinea Bissau participated in the Global Survey on the ICPD coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa and its concerns and suggestions will be reflected in the outcome report and the Secretary-General's report to be presented at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).



SEPTEMBER

Youth Policy Workshop



On September 19th the National Youth Institute held a workshop for the presentation and discussion of the document "Diagnosis of youth sector". This is a step in a long process that will ultimately end with the validation of a Youth Policy for Guinea Bissau.

The opening ceremony was chaired by the Secretary of State for youth, sports and Culture and the UNFPA Resident Representative on behalf of the United Nations System in Guinea-Bissau.

The document was prepared by a multi-sectoral Commission, responsible for oversight of the process for the elaboration of the Youth Policy document.

The document was enriched by the contributions of the participants of the different regions through regional consultation workshops conducted by the Institute of youth. The process has so far been supported technically and financially by UNFPA, UNDP and UNV.

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SEPTEMBER

UNFPA supported the Ministry of National Education

UNFPA is supporting the National Institute for the Development of Education (INDE) of the Ministry of National Education, to train teachers from private and community schools for the promotion of skills in Reproductive health education, including HIV/AIDS.

To this effect, a workshop was organized in Bafata from 25 to 29 September was attended by 36 teachers from different regions of the country. The training was facilitated by experts from the National Institute for the Development of Education (INDE).



This support will also allow the Ministry of National Education to have different groups of teachers from public and private schools trained and capable of using the materials and procedures recommended for sexual and reproductive health education conceived for young people.

This training will also contribute to develop a teaching strategy for the promotion of skills in Reproductive health education, including HIV/AIDS.

Participants were visited by UNFPA's Resident Representative who also attended a meeting organized by Youth Peers Educators in Reproductive health, in the regional secondary school of Bafatá.



World Day For The Promotion Of The Female Condom

The Guinean Association for Social Marketing (AGMS), a local NGO, in partnership with UNFPA held activities to commemorate the International Day of the Female Condom on 16 September.

The activities were supported by UNFPA and government partners. The commemoration was attended by the President of the Institute for Women and Children, the Executive Director of AGMS and UNFPA Programme in Reproductive Health Products.

Two good-will ambassadors were selected by AGMS to promote female condoms in the country.



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OCTOBER

Men's club: Gender and Reproductive Health

UNFPA is working with the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Women and Children in Guinea Bissau to increase the involvement and participation of men in family discussions and decisions on reproductive health. To this effect, men's clubs have been formed in Gabú, Bissau and Buba and will be extended to other parts of the country. Membership of the clubs include men of reproductive age who get together on a voluntary basis to discuss issues related to maternal health, family planning, etc and to work together to sensitize other members of the community on these issues.

A training workshop for members of the Men's Club of Bissau was held from 29 to 30 October 2013 with the support of UNFPA. The event was attended by 30 participants from different religious organizations and community associations. The training was facilitated by a national expert on behavioral change communication.

The main objective of the training sessions is to sensitize the members of the club on issues related to gender relations, women's rights on Reproductive Health. This initiative was first launched in Gabú, where there are currently two men's clubs already training and working to sensitize their communities on various issues, including gender based violence.



UNFPA Strengthens national capacity for Reproductive Health commodity management



UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health by strengthening the capacity of Government Staff in Reproductive Health commodity management. To this effect, a four days training workshop has been organized in Bissau for nurses and midwives from Bolama and Bijagos sanitarian regions. The workshop started on 14 October.

This support will allow the Ministry of Health to minimize shortages of reproductive health commodity stocks in health units. These commodities include contraceptives, medicines, materials and equipment for use in reproductive health services. 18 participants involved in the management of reproductive health commodities were targeted for this intensive training.

The training was facilitated by resource people from UNFPA and Reproductive Health unit of the Ministry of Health.

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NOVEMBER

Reproductive Health Commodity Management

From 26 November to 06 December, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health by strengthening the capacity of Government staff in reproductive health commodity management. 22 participants from all health sanitary regions were targeted for this intensive training.



The workshop's objective is to train the heads of reproductive health services and managers of reproductive health products (CECOM) at regional level, on the use of CCM and CHANNEL commodity management software, in order to minimize shortages of reproductive health commodity stocks in health units. Commodities include contraceptives, medicines, materials and equipment for use in reproductive health services.

The Ministry intends to have a simple tool to facilitate the management of reproductive health commodities, the appropriation of operations related to stock manipulation, the production of reports, data storage and logistical information sharing to all partners. The training is facilitated by a group of national trainers from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health.

DECEMBER

Visit to fistula patients in Simão Mendes National Hospital

On 24 December 2013 the UNFPA Representative conducted a visit to Simao Mendes Hospital to visit patients who have just undergone surgery for repair of obstetric fistula. A team of surgeons from Senegal has been working with local Doctors as part of the 5th national campaign for the prevention and treatment of Obstetric Fistula, running from 17 to 23 December. During this year's campaign, 31 women from all regions of the country have undergone surgical repair of obstetric fistula.

One of the most serious injuries of childbearing is obstetric fistula, which refers to a hole in the vagina or rectum caused by labor that is prolonged – often for days – without treatment. Usually the baby dies. Because the fistula leaves women leaking urine or feces, or both, it typically results

in social isolation, depression and deepening poverty. Left untreated, fistula can lead to chronic medical problems. It mainly affects the most powerless members of society.



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DECEMBER

Streamlining health indicators with the National Institute of Public Health



The National Institute of Public Health (INASA) of the Ministry of Health held a workshop for the revision and harmonization of health indicators including strengthening of integration of the gender dimension in management of data.

The workshop was held in Bissau, from 10 to 12 December 2013 with the support of the H4+ partner agencies. The event was attended by a cross section of participants responsible for data management in different departments of the Ministry of health, the United Nations System, private health sector and other development partners.

The workshop was opened by the WHO Representative and the Secretary of state for Health in the presence of the UNFPA Representative, UN WOMEN Programme Coordinator and the President of INASA.

The H4+ is a joint initiative of United Nations agencies (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and the World Bank) which partners with Governments and other partners to accelerate improvements in the health of women and children.

5th National Fistula Campaign in GB 2013.



The 5th national campaign for treatment and prevention of obstetric fistula in Guinea Bissau has started this week. 31 women coming from all regions of the country and of all ages will have access to a free surgery to eliminate obstetric fistulas. The campaign and treatment will take place from 17 to 23 December

Obstetric fistula is a dilapidating injury resulting from a prolonged labor, lack of obstetric care during labor and unavailability of timely medical attention for caesarian delivery where it is needed. The campaign will allow many women regain their health and regain the ability to have children.

A medical team composed of 2 urologists and 1 nurse from the University of Dakar in Sénégal are in Bissau to operate on the identified women and to train local Doctors to carry out this work in the future.

Since the beginning of annual campaigns for prevention and treatment with the assistance of UNFPA, a total of 231 women have been operated. Women treated in previous years have been assisted to reintegrate in their communities and families and to recover socially and psychologically.

In Guinea Bissau, Obstetric Fistula is most common in Bolama - Bijagós Bafatá, Gabu and Tombali and is attributed mainly to early marriage, female genital mutilation and the difficulty to access medical services is the longest.