OUR MISSION

Friends of UNFPA promotes the health, dignity, and rights of women and girls around the world by supporting the life-saving work of UNFPA, the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency, through education, advocacy, and fundraising.

UNFPA is the lead United Nations entity for reproductive health and rights for all. Working in over 155 countries, UNFPA works to end the unmet need for family planning, to end preventable maternal deaths, and to end violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

FRIENDS OF UNFPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Thanks to our supporters, Friends of UNFPA was able to meet the challenges of 2017.

The Trump administration’s decision in March of 2017 to withhold appropriated U.S. Government funding from UNFPA, the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency, threatened to undo years of progress made towards meeting the needs of vulnerable women and girls around the world. This move put UNFPA’s critical humanitarian relief programs in jeopardy as the United States has been the foremost supporter of UNFPA’s humanitarian work in recent years.

In 2017, we also witnessed multiple crises that further endangered the lives of women and girls in Syria, Yemen — and for the Rohingya refugees fleeing to Bangladesh. These challenges, however, did not prevent UNFPA from delivering care to those that most needed it. In fact, due to the outpouring of support from donors and governments around the world, UNFPA did not have to cut a single program.

Friends of UNFPA rose to the challenge as well. Our supporters took an unprecedented number of actions demanding that their elected officials defend UNFPA’s work. We declared together, with one voice: compromising the lives of women and girls, of mothers and their children, and ultimately the wellbeing of their families and communities is unacceptable.

Further demonstrating how much Americans value UNFPA, we gathered hundreds of thank you letters for field staff deployed in humanitarian disasters to show appreciation for their valuable work. You, our corporate, foundation, and individual donors, generously supported UNFPA’s work ranging from efforts to prevent and treat obstetric fistula to increasing access to family planning and from protecting girls against Female Genital Mutilation to helping mothers give birth safely.

In 2017, UNFPA announced an exciting new strategic vision, including three transformative goals — ending the unmet need for family planning, ending maternal death, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls. To achieve these goals we must all spread the message that each individual deserves to live with their rights, health, and dignity intact.

Critical challenges remain ahead. In 2018, the Trump administration withheld funding from UNFPA for a second consecutive year. Humanitarian crises such as that currently affecting the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh continue to jeopardize the lives and health of women and girls who are most at risk.

With UNFPA’s new Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem, we will continue to work hard to guarantee the health and dignity of women and girls everywhere. As we learned in 2017, our supporters and all those who value the human rights of each person around the world are prepared to meet any and all challenges that lay ahead.

Sincerely,

Minh Ngo
Chair of the Board
Friends of UNFPA
FRIENDS OF UNFPA
BUILDING SUPPORT AND AWARENESS FOR UNFPA’S LIFE-SAVING WORK

Speaking out and stepping up
At Friends of UNFPA, we believe that women’s rights are human rights, that women and young people must determine their own reproductive lives, and that no woman should die while giving life. Standing together with UNFPA, we believe in achieving universal access to reproductive health and rights for all. Through generous support from our donors, advocates, and partners, we help UNFPA work towards a better world, one where each person can determine their future and reach their full potential.

In 2017, Friends of UNFPA responded immediately to the Trump administration’s defunding of UNFPA. Partnering with Daily Action – the text and calling activism service – Friends of UNFPA was able to message 250,000 Americans asking them to voice their opposition to the decision. As a result, thousands of individuals called their Members of Congress. Hundreds more wrote to their elected-officials demanding support for UNFPA. On social media, our hashtag #FundUNFPA channeled the concern and outrage of supporters across the country.

Friends of UNFPA Board of Directors Members also met with the offices of congressional leaders such as Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Pramila Jayapa (D-WA-7), and Kamala Harris (D-CA).

Going beyond speaking out, individuals also donated unprecedented amounts to Friends of UNFPA to support UNFPA’s core activities including family planning and maternal health. We also continued to support UNFPA’s humanitarian work through campaigns that raised funds for clean delivery kits as well as for UNFPA’s work helping refugees migrating through Europe.

Partnering with the private sector
Our corporate partners also pitched in to support UNFPA in this critical year. By engaging the private sector, Friends of UNFPA garners additional champions for the health and dignity of women and girls.

In 2017, our partners at Johnson & Johnson worked with Friends of UNFPA and UNFPA to help reduce maternal deaths in Haiti and Liberia by helping to reach more women with skilled birth attendants. They partnered in Haiti to help mothers and their babies affected by Hurricane Matthew by supporting the distribution of “Baby Boxes,” which are containers filled with supplies necessary for newborn and maternal health such as a mattress, wash cloths, clothing, and mosquito repellent. Johnson & Johnson also worked to reduce new HIV infection rates among adolescent girls in South Africa.

Our partners at the Moccasin Lake Foundation supported UNFPA projects in Yemen and with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Friends of UNFPA also worked with the Winslow Foundation to support the distribution of contraception through UNFPA Supplies and with Treehouse Investments to increase access to reproductive health services in Ghana.

Voicing our appreciation
During the year, humanitarian crises in places such as Syria, Jordan, and South Sudan continued to escalate. UNFPA staff worked around the clock to make sure women and girls received the care they needed.

Throughout the summer of 2017, Friends of UNFPA conducted a campaign in which our donors reached out to UNFPA staff at country offices around the world to show how much their hard work was appreciated. UNFPA field staff in locations such as Haiti, Syria, and South Sudan were heartened to hear from Americans who truly value the work they do. In total, over 600 Americans thanked UNFPA staff for their dedication to the reproductive health of women and girls.

Photo: ©Friends of UNFPA/Melanie Einzig
I am a passionate believer that women and girls everywhere should have the right to a dignified life, including access to health care and basic human rights. As a member of the Board and a donor to Friends of UNFPA, I have been a witness to the work of UNFPA on behalf of women and girls for over 15 years. I have been privileged to visit some of the field offices of UNFPA around the globe to see firsthand the work of this wonderful agency.

The two most enduring takeaways I will keep with me forever were in Bolivia and Mexico.

In Bolivia, I sat with UNFPA staff in a carpenter’s hut where several women who had organized themselves to combat domestic violence in their own village met weekly. I have never witnessed such profound courage, watching these women stand their ground. They were alone, save for UNFPA.

In Oaxaca, Mexico, I attended a conference of midwives who had organized, with the help of UNFPA, to attend to the needs of indigenous women in that mountain area to have maternal and obstetrical care, which was not provided by the government. The determination of these women to help their sisters is seared in my mind forever.

-Rita O’Connor, New York
I know I am fortunate for my situation because of where I was lucky to be born, so I feel it is my duty and opportunity to serve and support others who were not as lucky simply based on the place and situation into which they were born. Helping to increase access to family planning and women’s health services is a great way to create equal opportunity and standing for women. These services are the foundation to breaking the cycle of poverty in the long-term.

UNFPA, and Friends of UNFPA, in turn, offer these services in some of the most challenging and underserved areas of the world. Through my support of Friends of UNFPA, I know exactly where my donations are going, what services they provide and what outcomes they support. My donations are even more important in today’s political climate, where family planning funding is suffering from major cuts.

Jyoti Agarwal, New Jersey
UNFPA Key Achievements 2014-2017

- **UNFPA-supported contraception prevented**: 15,200,000
  - unsafe abortions were averted due to contraceptives supplied by UNFPA

- **UNFPA-supported contraception prevented**: 125,000
  - maternal deaths

- **57,385**
  - fistula repair surgeries were performed with UNFPA support

- **UNFPA HELPED TRAIN**
  - 47,000 MIDWIVES

- **UNFPA HELPED 41,000,000**
  - people access reproductive health services in humanitarian circumstances

- **1,750,000 GIRLS**
  - were reached through the joint UNFPA-UNICEF program to end child marriage

- **8,963 COMMUNITIES**
  - abandoned Female Genital Mutilation with UNFPA’s support

- **UNFPA HELPED 39,500,000**
  - adolescents gain access to reproductive health services

@FRIENDSOFUNFPA
Over the last couple of years, I felt inspired and then compelled to take action for girls and women around the world after sharing some thought-provoking experiences with my daughter. Together, we listened to first person accounts and viewed documentary films highlighting the oppression of women and girls. These experiences made me think: What would my daughters’ lives be like if they didn’t have access to family planning? What would their lives be like if they were denied an education and forced into marriage at the age of 10 or 12?

Through Friends of UNFPA, I feel I can deliver hope and opportunity to girls everywhere. I can determine for myself where my impact will be most profoundly felt.

Denise Merlone, California
UNFPA’s Work

Ending the Unmet Need for Family Planning

Family planning empowers women to seek education and jobs, emerge from poverty, and to raise families how, when, and if they want. More than 200 million women who want to avoid pregnancy face significant obstacles to using reliable contraceptives. UNFPA works around the world to end this unmet need for contraception so that everyone can realize the benefits of this important human right.

UNFPA Supplies

UNFPA Supplies is UNFPA’s flagship program working to help countries achieve reproductive health commodity security so that every woman, adolescent girl and young person is able to choose from and use a range of quality family planning methods. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development guides and inspires UNFPA’s strategies to expand access to family planning by women and girls in some of the world’s poorest countries.

In 46 countries, UNFPA Supplies worked with governments to help meet the unmet need for family planning, ensure sustained financing for contraception, and go the last mile for hard-to-reach women and adolescent girls. In 2017, 35 of the countries UNFPA Supplies operates in experienced humanitarian crises such as natural disasters and conflicts. The program worked to make sure that even in times of crisis women had access to necessary supplies and services.

UNFPA Supplies is also working closely with countries to support them on the pathway to self-sufficiency, demonstrating the importance of family planning in national development plans and expanding the pool of funding resources.

Workplace family planning project empowers women, and is good business

Months after giving birth, Mae Esparcia, from the Philippines, decided to start using contraceptive pills. She is a garment factory worker at Hamlin Industrial Corp and received the contraception for free from her workplace. “I’m taking the pills so that I avoid getting pregnant so soon after the birth of my daughter,” she told UNFPA.

Since June 2015, UNFPA has mentored Hamlin’s program managers and family planning trainers, and facilitated the adoption of the program’s policies. UNFPA also supplies some of the program’s contraceptives. Within one year, the program enabled 88 percent of workers to use modern family planning methods, including condoms, contraceptive pills, injectables, intrauterine devices and implants.

2017 KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

Contraceptives provided through UNFPA Supplies in 2017 had potential to reach tens of millions of users with a choice of quality modern contraceptives.

Family planning supplies distributed by UNFPA included 1.3 million emergency contraceptives, 46.8 million doses of injectable contraceptives, and 6.5 million contraceptive implants.

UNFPA’s family planning programs averted 13.5 million unintended pregnancies, 32,000 maternal deaths, and 4.1 million unsafe abortions.

Photo: ©UNFPA / Fhmia Al-Fortih
UNFPA’s work in emergencies includes distributing reproductive health and hygiene supplies, delivering obstetric services, and mobilizing trained personnel.

For women affected by the crisis in Yemen, for example, UNFPA supported 10 mobile health clinics in December of 2017 alone, reaching over 78,000 people in need of care. These mobile clinics were integrated with nutritional services in the country and provided health care screenings and basic supplies for safe deliveries. UNFPA’s response in Yemen for all of 2017 reached over 2.5 million people, which is 1.5 million more than were reached in 2016.

Midwives have the ability to completely alter the landscape of global maternal health. If trained and deployed throughout the world, these health professionals can deliver 87 percent of all essential reproductive health services, which would avert roughly two thirds of all maternal deaths.

UNFPA partners with governments to build a well-supported midwifery workforce. In 2017, UNFPA supported the training of 15,000 midwives. This includes deploying midwives in under-served and marginalized communities. For example, throughout Latin America UNFPA focused on supporting midwives in the region’s indigenous communities.

UNFPA’s safe motherhood programs are at the forefront of efforts to attain the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which include ensuring healthy lives for all and achieving gender equality. By working to realize equitable access to services such as prenatal and emergency obstetric care, UNFPA strives to create a world where no woman dies giving life. By working with health systems at all levels, UNFPA addresses the root causes of maternal deaths.

In the remote farming village of Sakreang, in Cambodia’s far north-east, Romam Pcheuk visits pregnant women in their homes. “I keep my eye on the girls who are pale, and those that get pregnant very young,” she explained. “It’s my job to warn them of danger signs.”

Five years ago, she joined a government-led initiative, supported by UNFPA, that aimed to educate women in far-flung communities about safe pregnancy and childbirth. Crucially, she learned to encourage all pregnant women to visit professional health care providers. Today, she is a community health volunteer, looking out for hundreds of pregnant women in nearby villages. She monitors their progress and gives them referrals to health facilities. “Today, no one here gives birth at home anymore. Everyone goes to the facility,” Roman said.
UNFPA’S WORK
Ending Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices

Women and girls cannot reach their full potential if they are abused, married off before they are adults, or subjected to other human rights violations such as Female Genital Mutilation. UNFPA is the lead UN agency working to end these harmful practices by 2030.

Gender-based Violence
Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world, affecting one out of every three women.

UNFPA works in 135 countries to address violence against women. UNFPA-supported health programs provide information about women’s and girls’ rights, including their right to live free of abuse. These programs also provide essential medical supplies, such as rape kits, and offer a range of counselling and services. In Rwanda, for example, UNFPA is working with other UN agencies in “one-stop centers” to address the diverse physical, emotional and social needs of domestic violence survivors.

Child Marriage
Around the world, one in every five girls is forced into marriage before reaching age 18. Child marriage threatens girls’ lives and health, and it limits their future prospects.

UNFPA works to end child marriage. Working at the national and local levels, UNFPA promotes legislation designed to end this harmful practice. UNFPA supports evidence-based, girl-centered investments that empower girls with the information, skills and services they need to be healthy, educated and safe, helping them make a successful transition to adulthood. UNFPA also works to support the needs of married girls particularly in family planning and maternal health.

Female Genital Mutilation
Approximately 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation, or FGM. UNFPA engages communities in order to encourage them to abandon the practice. Together with UNICEF, UNFPA leads the largest global program to accelerate the abandonment of FGM. The program currently focuses on 17 African countries and also supports regional and global initiatives. Between 2014 and 2017, UNFPA helped to spare 800,000 girls from female genital mutilation.

2017 KEY HIGHLIGHTS:
UNFPA delivered sexual and reproductive health services and services to address gender-based violence in humanitarian circumstances to 16 million people

2,960 communities abandoned female genital mutilation

RUNNING FOR HER LIFE:
A JOURNEY OF VIOLENCE, DISPLACEMENT AND HEALING

Dalia Asinde, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was in an abusive marriage for 16 years. Finally, Ms. Asinde escaped with her seven children to a Refugee Camp in Tanzania. After her husband found her in the camp, she fled again to a camp in Kenya. She was then introduced to the Kakuma Support Centre, which helps survivors of violence and abuse and was founded with support from UNFPA. There, Ms. Asinde received counseling and training in embroidery and bakery, which helped her earn a living.

Photo © UNFPA Kenya
FRIENDS OF UNFPA 2017
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL INCOME

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<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Individual Contributions</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
<td>$2,222</td>
<td>$7,607</td>
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<td>Total Support &amp; Revenue</td>
<td>$2,619,729</td>
<td>$3,560,656</td>
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### EXPENSES AND GRANTS

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<td>Program Services &amp; Grants*</td>
<td>3,168,569</td>
<td>892,316</td>
<td>5,389,222</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>217,199</td>
<td>258,210</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>249,263</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses &amp; Grants</strong></td>
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<td>1,486,749</td>
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<th></th>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(1,015,302)</td>
<td>2,073,907</td>
<td>(1,994,604)</td>
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<td>2,312,190</td>
<td>1,296,888</td>
<td>3,370,795</td>
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<td>Net assets - End of year</td>
<td>1,296,888</td>
<td>3,370,795</td>
<td>1,376,191</td>
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*FY2016 programmatic expenses were lower as a result of the timing of grant awards.
GET INVOLVED

Women and Girls are Depending on You

Together we can work with UNFPA to achieve gender equality by supporting women and girls when they need us most.

Advocate for UNFPA
Meet, write, or call your Members of Congress and let them know why U.S. support for UNFPA matters to you. Ask them to stand against the Trump-Pence administration’s heartless and dangerous decision to withhold funding from UNFPA.

Make a monthly donation
Join our Circle of Friends community by making a recurring donation on a monthly basis. Knowing we have these funds will help us plan our work more effectively. To start your monthly sustainer gift today, visit: friendsofunfpa.org/monthly

Spread the word
Organize a local event to help raise awareness of the importance of empowering and safeguarding the sexual and reproductive health for all. Contact: events@FriendsofUNFPA.org for details!

Join the conversation
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and sign up to receive our communications, action alerts, and updates.

Contact Us! To learn more about how you can help please contact us at (646) 649-9100 or via email at: info@FriendsofUNFPA.org.

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