

Evaluation of UNFPA support to population dynamics and data

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With the world population exceeding 8 billion, responding to demographic shifts and diversity is imperative to achieve sustainable development for all. Given its mandate, UNFPA plays a crucial role in the United Nations system to better understand and use population dynamics and data for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This evaluation informs future support and programming of UNFPA on population data, dynamics and development, within the framework of the current UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025. This is the first evaluation of this theme at UNFPA. The evaluation covers eight years, from 2014 to 2022, and includes a specific focus on the demographic dividend, population ageing and low fertility.

QUICK FACTS



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- UNFPA support for population data, dynamics, and development, has remained relevant and timely, despite a perceived shift in focus since 2014
- UNFPA remains a strong player in population data, particularly with regard to the census, and has increased investment in population data systems
- Human rights and gender have been integrated into population and development work, but less coherently for other megatrends, such as migration and climate change
- UNFPA is positioned as a leader in comprehending and responding to demographic shifts, but how ageing and low fertility are linked to its organizational priorities is not clear
- UNFPA has started to shift the focus from funding to financing, strengthening evidence-based and rights-based arguments with the economic argument
- UNFPA staffing capacity in population and development needs to be strengthened to position UNFPA as the population data agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Develop a bold population and development strategy reconceptualized around the data, dynamics and development continuum, including demographic dividend, resilience and policy
- 2 Enhance programming priorities and linkages for internal clarity and external positioning
- 3 Invest corporately in signature data products
- 4 Improve data and analytics across UNFPA
- 5 Enhance human and technical resourcing for population and development.