ACCELERATION AND TRANSFORMATION TO REACH THE FURTHEST LEFT BEHIND

ANGOLA COUNTRY OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

2022
UNFPA Angola 2022 Annual Report

UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.
# Acronyms

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A commitment to accelerate progress and keep moving forward, no matter the challenges that arise, is at the heart of the UNFPA’s mission. This commitment guided the work of the Angola Country Office in 2022. Despite challenges to progress following the COVID-19 pandemic and the prolonged drought in several southern provinces of Angola, working with our partners, the UNFPA Angola Country Office continued to deliver life-saving and life-changing results towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

**EXPANDING SRHR SERVICES**

In 2022, we reached over 1.2 million people with quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including 500,000 women with emergency obstetric and neonatal care. In addition, we trained over 200 health providers in drought-affected areas to support expectant mothers and newborns.

**INVESTING IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH**

A more sustainable future requires timely and insightful demographic data and investment in young people so that they can make informed choices and reach their potential. We supported the development of the National Adolescent Health Strategy, which includes international health standards for adolescents and youth and launched the Safeguard Young People Programme (SYP). The five-year SYP program will contribute to the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health for 60,000 young people. It will focus on expanding adolescent and youth-friendly health services, leading the menstrual health management program and supporting youth as leaders and change agents in SRHR.

**FULFILLING THE RIGHT TO MENSTRUAL HEALTH**

We built on our previous success, using technology-based solutions to accelerate access to SRH information and services. Approximately 17,000 nurses nationwide benefitted from the Safe Delivery App translated into Portuguese to improve health providers’ knowledge and practice on Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care. Oi Kambas, a free mobile application, that provides information on a wide range of health and well-being topics to young people, was developed to help young people make safe and informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

**ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY**

While gender equality is a key priority in Angola, gender-based violence (GBV), harmful practices, early marriage and pregnancy continue to prevent millions of women and girls from participating equally in society. In 2022, we supported the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women Promotion (MASFAMU) to create a GBV Statistical Portal, to improve data collection on GBV cases and better understand the nature and extent of violence. We also supported the
development of the National Strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy. The strategy seeks to discourage cultural practices that limit women's and girls' rights and promotes a human rights approach to traditions and customs.

Further progress was made on the establishment of the Angola Gender Observatory (OGA) to track and report progress on gender equality. The OGA will contribute to monitoring SDG 5 on Gender Equality and gender-sensitive indicators across the SDGs and the National Development Plan.

**PREPARING FOR CENSUS 2024**
In November 2022, the world's population breached the 8 billion mark. Angola, with approximately 33.1million people, contributed 0.41per cent. Angola will have a clearer picture of its current population when it holds its national Population and Housing Census in 2024, giving much-needed disaggregated data on households. UNFPA continued to support Census preparations by carrying out a capacity assessment and subsequently training INE of f cials and technical staf to ensure census data collection and use meets international standards.

The results presented in this report are the culmination of ef orts by multiple partners steered by the Government of Angola.

We are grateful for the continued support of our donors and the dedicated work of our implementing partners.

As we head into the last year of the 8th annual program in 2023 and prepare for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 30 review process in 2024, we will continue to fine-tune our activities and push for bold results to ensure the implementation of the Nairobi commitments. This is the time to accelerate our ef orts. Even in the face of climate-induced natural disasters, food insecurity and the rising cost of living, we must continue to focus unwaveringly on our fundamental vision where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

**A more sustainable future requires timely and insightful demographic data and investment in young people so that they can make informed choices and reach their potential.**
Angola is located on the west coast of Southern Africa and borders Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia. It is the second-largest African country south of the Sahara and comprises 18 geographically and culturally diverse provinces.

Angola has the third youngest population in the world, according to the UN World Population Prospects, 2022 Report and over two-thirds are under the age of 25. It also has one of the highest fertility rates in Africa at 6.2 live births per woman. According to data from the National Statistics Institute (INE), in 2021, Angola’s population stood at an estimated 32.1 million. At the current population growth rate of 3.2 per cent, The INE estimates that the population will reach 41.8 million by 2030.

Angola’s economy continued to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, supported by higher prices and improved production of its chief export, oil. While the oil industry is currently the foundation of the economy - accounting for a third of gross domestic product (GDP) and 95 per cent of Angola’s exports, growth in the non-oil economy, especially in agriculture, construction and services is expected to remain robust, with non-oil GDP growth exceeding four per cent annually.

Growth is estimated at 3.5 percent for 2023. Overall growth is expected to continue in 2023 and reach about 4 percent in the medium term.

In 2022, the World Bank estimated that while the poverty rate is expected to continue marginally decreasing, due to rapid population growth, the number of poor people will surpass 11.7 million. In addition to staggering poverty rates, inequality also remains high as a result of unequal access to resources and basic services. Women, girls and young people bear the brunt of this inequality. The maternal mortality ratio sits at 239 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births. Over a third (35 per cent) of girls aged 15-19 have been pregnant, yet many struggle to access family planning products and services - the unmet need among adolescent girls stands at 42 per cent.

However, there are promising strides as the government works to secure universal healthcare. An estimated 90 per cent of public health facilities provide maternal health services; around 85 per cent of public health facilities provide family planning counselling and contraceptives and approximately 85 per cent of public health facilities provide prevention of HIV/AIDS.
Against the backdrop of poverty, inequality and the rebuilding of livelihoods following the COVID-19 pandemic, drought conditions persist in the arid southern region. Households that are dependent on subsistence farming face consecutive poor harvests, depleted food reserves, declining herd sizes, and limited income opportunities due to drought. Despite improvements in severe conditions, by the end of December 2022, the World Food Program estimated that 1.58 million people still faced acute food insecurity in southwestern Angola.

Within this context, the Government of Angola prioritised the strengthening of health systems to ensure that the country achieves universal sexual and reproductive health for all. Through joint projects with development partners, the government supports adolescents, youth and women, including in humanitarian contexts, to access family planning services, maternal health, and gender-based violence prevention. The GoA has further prioritized gender equality and women’s empowerment as indispensable levers for socio-economic development.
Since 1978, UNFPA has supported Angola’s national objectives to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care. UNFPA works with the Government of Angola (GoA) and civil society to improve the lives of women, girls and young people, including in emergency and humanitarian settings. UNFPA programmes focus on access to, and delivery of, SRH information and services, including HIV and gender-based violence prevention, reducing maternal mortality and harmful cultural norms and practices, and ensuring no one is left behind in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2022, marked the last year of the UNFPA’s eighth Country Programme (CP) in Angola. The CP was aligned with Angola’s 2018 – 2022 National Development Plan. In 2022, Angola began the process of designing its 2023 – 2027 National Development Plan while UNFPA developed its 9th CP in close coordination with the GoA, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, and youth representatives. The CP addresses the priorities established in the Long-Term Development Strategy (Angola 2025) and contributes to the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063.

For UNFPA, the CP results for 2022 also contribute to the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as outlined in the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022– 2025, which is guided by the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Fundamental to the UNFPA Strategic Plan is the pursuit of pathways, strategies and actions that accelerate the fulfilment of unmet needs for family planning and end preventable maternal deaths, gender-based violence and harmful practices and new HIV infections.

In 2022, as socio-economic activity resumed following COVID-19, UNFPA worked with partners to strengthen health systems to deliver core services to women and their newborn infants, young people, and men. Programme activities included: support to provide quality maternal and neonatal care and increase health units following COVID-19 closures; expanding modern contraceptive methods at health facilities and increasing youth-friendly facilities; equipping women and young people with skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health; and strengthening institutions to provide comprehensive prevention and response to gender-based violence.

UNFPA also partnered with the INE and relevant government departments to prepare for the upcoming Population and Housing Census in 2024 and to ensure that the census is high quality, upholds international principles and standards, and produces data that are widely disseminated and utilized for development. The census will inform policy formulation, development planning, crisis prevention, mitigation and response, and social welfare programmes.
The three programme areas of the Angola CO include: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Young People and Adolescents, including Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, and Population Dynamics. The UNFPA Angola CO report presents a snapshot summary of the key activities and results from January 1 to December 31, 2022. The following are the three key results of the year.

1.2 MILLION PEOPLE INCLUDING 500,000 WOMEN BENEFITTED from quality sexual and reproductive health services in the drought-affected provinces

240 HEALTH PROVIDERS TRAINED AND SUPERVISED in the drought-affected areas on the integrated sexual and reproductive health package

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT TO CARRY OUT THE 2024 CENSUS FINALIZED
Recommendations will guide Angola to hold the census according to international standards
Since November 2020, the southern region of Angola has experienced the worst drought in forty years. In 2022, successive dry seasons meant that drought continued to wreak havoc on communities and their livelihoods – many of whom are dependent on subsistence farming to survive. The 2022 World Bank report, Water Security and Drought Resilience in the South of Angola, estimates that the economic impact of drought across all sectors exceeds US$749 million. The agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors, where many families derive their income, are by far the most affected.

The loss of livelihood, and in some instances, displacement and migration due to drought conditions also negatively impact access to health care services and information. Women and girls of reproductive age, in particular, are likely to suffer poor health outcomes as their needs are often time-sensitive such as assistance with childbirth or access to contraceptives.

To ensure that women and girls receive integrated SRH services and information, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health (MINSA) to implement the Health System Performance Strengthening Project (HSPSP) - Response to Sexual and Reproductive Health Project in Drought-Affected provinces. Approximately 500,000 women and girls benefited from the project in 2022, which included the distribution of dignity kits to 50,000 women and girls and the dissemination of vital information.

A crucial component of the HSPSP ensured that healthcare workers have adequate skills and knowledge when delivering SHR services. Through the multiple systems strengthening and human resource improvement interventions component of the HSPSP, 240 healthcare providers in the drought-affected areas (Cuando-Cubango, Cunene, Huíla and Namibe provinces) received training on antenatal care, emergency obstetric and neonatal care and the provision of youth-friendly health services.

The training was part of the broader aim to strengthen the health system and ensure the quality of care, so that even in emergency situations, expectant mothers and their newborns are assisted at hospital units or with a trained healthcare worker. Increasing the number of women who attend antenatal consultations and the number of assisted births in humanitarian settings has in turn improved maternal health outcomes during the humanitarian response.
Barriers young people already face when accessing healthcare due to age and cultural norms, are amplified during emergency events. Disrupted access to family planning services, products and information, young people are at a heightened risk of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. For adolescent girls and young women, the suspension of educational activities and scarce employment opportunities also threatens their economic security allowing them to be more susceptible to sexual exploitation and unsafe sexual choices.

To assist young people, UNFPA implemented the Safeguard Young People Programme (SYP) in four drought-affected provinces. Using community-led behaviour change interventions, the SYP supports adolescents and young people to protect themselves from STIs (including HIV), prevent unwanted pregnancies, avoid unsafe abortions and early marriage, and prevent gender-based Violence and harmful cultural practices. Ultimately, adolescents and young people are empowered to lead healthier and more productive lives.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a reality for women and girls in humanitarian situations and in some instances it escalates. The Angola Country Office led an active GBV working group with a decision-making mechanism that includes people directly affected by the humanitarian crisis including women and young people. In addition, the Executive Secretariat of the National Civil Protection Commission validated the Minimum Initial Service Package on SRH Readiness Assessment Preparation Action Plan which includes GBV prevention and response in emergencies. The plan details the SRH needs that government and partners must address at the onset of an emergency and ensures that the most vulnerable women and girls receive life-saving services.

**HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE KEY RESULTS FOR 2022**

- Minimum Initial Service Package on SRH Readiness Assessment Preparation Action Plan validated by the National Civil Protection Commission.
- 98% Implementation rate of Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funds by expiry date.
- Updated Business Continuity Plan and communication tree tested in preparation the 2022 general elections.
IMPACT STORY: STRENGTHENING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED PROVINCES

"It is very gratifying, it is a source of pride to accompany a pregnant woman from the first consultation until delivery. It is very beautiful!" says Leonor Teles Daniel when asked why she became a nurse.

Leonor is responsible for the delivery room at the municipal hospital of Namacunde, in Cunene, a drought-affected province in Angola. She is passionate about nursing and proud to belong to a profession that has the mission of caring for pregnant women in the delivery room, as is her colleague Olga Dos Santos, a nurse in the municipal hospital of Humpata, in Huila province. Even though they are in different locations, they share the same passion for their work. Due to the disparities in health outcomes per geographic location in Angola, Lenor and Olga face different challenges compared to colleagues in other provinces. Data from the 2015-2016 Multiple Indicator and Health Survey (IIMS) shows that in the oil and water-rich province of Cabinda, 82.2 per cent of births take place in hospital units. However, this number drops dramatically in drought-facing regions, with only 30.4 percent of births in the province of Huila taking place in health units and 25.6 per cent in Cunene province, where Olga and Lenor work respectively.

Lenor and Olga are part of a group of 240 health professionals receiving multiple training sessions through the Health System Performance Strengthening Project program. The program includes training health professionals in obstetric and neonatal emergencies, including new technological tools to improve the quality of health care, and improving health units’ equipment and conditions. Additionally, health technicians were given technical training to respond to young people and adolescents in specific units.

As part of this initiative to strengthen health workers’ response, the Government of Angola in partnership with UNFPA and the Maternity Foundation launched the Portuguese version of the Safe Delivery App that will help nurses and midwives in obstetric care. The introduction of the Safe Delivery App in southern Angola is part of MINSA’s programme of priority actions in the four provinces to mitigate the effects of the drought. Leonor and Olga both attended the virtual training sessions and have been utilizing the app since. The app includes videos and audio and gives health practitioners concrete information and steps to respond to all potential maternal health scenarios, especially in response to any complications that may arise.

"It has been a very big challenge, before the application there was a bit of [language] disparity. Before, we used to transfer all the cases that arose to the central maternity hospital. Today, we apply the knowledge we have learned with the help of the application and only then do we transfer them to the Irene Neto Maternity Hospital," says Olga.

Following the launch of the app, community agents and midwives in rural areas will be trained to help women overcome local dialect and language barriers so that they feel safe reaching out to their nearest health units. With the institutionalization of deliveries, it is expected that the Safe Delivery App will support 51,511 births in Cunene province, and 54,466 in Huila province.
Angola has made considerable strides in improving sexual and reproductive healthcare. Currently, around 90 per cent of public health facilities provide maternal health services, and 85 per cent of public health facilities provide family planning counselling, contraceptive methods and information and products for HIV/AIDS prevention. Yet even with these commendable inroads, Angola’s maternal mortality ratio (MMR) remains high at 239 deaths per 100,000 live births and the fertility rate is 6.2 live births per woman.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the protracted drought in the south of Angola have also shown that for the sexual and reproductive health needs of those at risk of being left behind to be met, health systems must be strengthened at an accelerated pace. To ensure the provision of universal healthcare, the GoA therefore prioritised strengthening health systems including the provision of SRHR in 2022.

REDUCING MATERNAL AND NEWBORN MORTALITY BY IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

To reduce the number of unplanned Angola’s maternal mortality ratio (MMR) stands at 239 deaths per 100,000 live births – slightly higher than the global MMR of 223 per 100,000 live births. The underlying causes of maternal mortality tend to be the “three classic delays” in deciding to seek health services, in reaching the health centre, and in receiving adequate obstetric and neonatal care at the health centre.

In addition to ensuring the infrastructure to deliver SRHR, healthcare workers are vital to a well-functioning health system. Improving their skills and knowledge is therefore important for efficient delivery. The Ministry of Health of Angola (MINSA) launched multiple systems strengthening and human resource improvement interventions through the Health System Performance Strengthening
Project (HSPSP). The program is implemented in partnership with UNFPA and financed by the World Bank. The program includes training health professionals in obstetric and neonatal emergencies, including new technological tools to improve the quality of health care, and improving health units’ equipment and conditions. Additionally, health technicians were given technical training to respond to young people and adolescents’ special needs. The objective is to strengthen the health system and ensure the quality of care locally, so that births and consultations take place on-site in the hospital units and do not have to be transferred, improving maternal health outcomes and reducing the MMR. Health technicians were also given technical training to respond to

As part of the initiative to strengthen health workers’ response, the Government of Angola, in partnership with UNFPA and the Maternity Foundation, translated (into Portuguese) and launched the Safe Delivery (a Parto Seguro) mobile application. The application provides detailed information on the stages of childbirth and gives health practitioners concrete guidance to respond appropriately to all maternal health scenarios including emergency obstetric and neonatal care and complications that may arise. Approximately 17,000 nurses nationwide are using the Safe Delivery app to improve their knowledge and practice. The Safe Delivery app is expected to support over 50,000 births in Cunene province and close to 55,000 in Huila province over one year.

ENSURING THE DELIVERY OF SRHR SERVICES IN EMERGENCIES

Part of the HSPSP project focused on ensuring that SRH services are not overlooked during emergencies such as droughts, famines, and mass displacement as this healthcare gap creates room for unplanned and unassisted pregnancies. For example, an assessment of services in Namibe province found that 38 per cent of women aged 15 to 45 intend to adhere to family planning, but due to lack of knowledge, they still do not know how to use the family planning methods correctly.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

KEY RESULTS FOR 2022

- 1.2 million people including 500,000 women benefitted from quality sexual and reproductive health services
- 17,000 nurses nationwide benefitted from the Safe Delivery App translated into Portuguese
- 240 Health providers trained and supervised in the drought-affected areas.
- 102 Youth Friendly Health Services were established in five provinces (Bengo, Cuando-Cubango, Cunene, Huila and Namibe)
IMPACT STORY: STRENGTHENING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED PROVINCES

“When working with women, my biggest challenge is to bring knowledge, because those who do not have knowledge will not be able to do anything, those with knowledge already know prevention, they already know what they have to do during pregnancy or as women of reproductive age”.

Carolina Manuela Sousa always had the dream of serving the community. Before joining the Ministry of Health, she had hoped to work for the National Police in an area related to healthcare so that she could take care of her colleagues. However, she wound up on a different path, still serving the community but not in the security forces. Today, the 42-year-old is a professional third-class midwifery nursing technician working for the Ministry of Health in Moçâmedes, Namibe province. With 14 years of experience as a nurse, Carolina is responsible for the delivery room, obstetrics and family planning at the Centro de Saúde do Bairro 5 de Abril in Moçâmedes. Carolina is part of the group of 240 health professionals who benefited from the training implemented by the Government of Angola, UNFPA and the World Bank to guarantee Sexual and Reproductive Health services in regions affected by drought.

“The training was beneficial because there are things I didn't do before, such as calculating the gestational age and tracking sexually transmitted diseases that I'm implementing today from what I learned during the training. Also, with the knowledge acquired, I had to train my colleagues and today there is more demand for our services,” says Carolina.

Carolina points out significant improvements with the knowledge acquired and makes a comparison of before and after training, which fills her with pride in being able to work more and better for the development of the community she works with. “There are many mothers with children aged six months or one year that get pregnant right away. Why? Because the woman doesn't have the knowledge to implement family planning. My dream is to see more women attending family planning consultations, because they will have fewer difficulties supporting their children.”
Nearly 70 per cent of Angola’s population is under the age of 25. Angola’s remarkable youthful population presents both opportunities and acute challenges. On the one hand, a healthy, educated, youthful population can boost economic growth and reduce poverty – allowing the country to reap a demographic dividend. On the other hand, without access to education, quality healthcare and employment opportunities, young people may fall further into poverty. Urgent and consistent investment in the health and well-being of young people is therefore one of the key priorities of the GoA to unlock the potential of young people to drive accelerated growth. In response, UNFPA launched the Safeguard Young People Programme (SYP) in Angola in 2022. The five-year program aims to contribute to the achievement and universal access to sexual and reproductive health for 60,000 young people in five target provinces (Cuando Cubango, Cunene, Huíla, Luanda, and Namibe).

ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY SRHR SERVICES

In 2022, UNFPA supported the development of the National Adolescent Health Strategy which includes international health standards for adolescents and youth. The strategy also outlines the need for SRHR services and information tailored for young people. Currently, young people are the face of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions and new HIV infections. Reversing this trend requires that young people have access to adolescent and youth-friendly SRHR services that are approachable even in humanitarian settings.

As part of the Health System Performance Strengthening Project led by M INSA and funded by the World Bank, 22 Adolescent and Youth-Friendly health service spaces were opened in four drought-affected provinces (Cuando Cubango, Cunene, Huíla, and Namibe). These youth-friendly spaces inside health units are staffed by teams trained to respond to the needs of young people and adolescents without the barriers young people have previously experienced when requesting sexual and reproductive health support. Since opening, approximately 54,000 marginalized adolescents have received quality information on SRH in Cunene, Huíla, Namibe and Cuando-Cubango provinces.

LAUNCH OF OI KAMBAS APP AND TELEVISION PROGRAM

In order to make safe choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health, young people need reliable, age-responsive information, presented in a way that they can easily understand.
Within the framework of the SYP, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MINJUD) to develop a digital application named Oi Kambas where young people can find information about relationships, sexuality, health and well-being including sexual and reproductive health presented in an educational and relatable way. Users can also test their SRHR knowledge through interactive quizzes. Over 80 per cent of the app information is available offline and therefore does not require data to access. The app also provides practical information such as the location of the nearest health unit, includes a menstrual cycle management tool and allows users to share their views.

The Oi Kambas App was launched in June 2022 by the National Director of Youth on TV Zimbo. By the end of 2022, the Oi Kambas app already had 5,000 users. In addition to the app, the television programme, “A Tarde é Nossa” on TV Zimbo carries a weekly segment titled “Oi Kambas on TV” where presenters Zuleica Wilson and Igor Benza discuss topics from the app. The program, produced by Angolan agency Isenta Comunicação for UNFPA, received the 2022 UNFPA Innovation Award and is a case study for the implementation of United Nations’ communication for development programs.

The MINJUD will also launch Radio Novelas Oi Kambas – Let’s talk about our things - a radio drama in 2023. Using clear language and youth-appropriate scenarios, the radio programme will portray the lived experiences of young people and will focus on the themes and content of the Oi Kambas application. The programme will be aired on public radio stations with an expected reach of 15 million people in the first quarter.

**MENSTRUAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND HYGIENE**

In Angola, while 75 per cent of girls attend elementary school, this proportion drops dramatically to a mere 15.5 per cent in middle or secondary school, coinciding with the age of first menstruation or menarche. Good Menstrual Health Management (MHM) enables women and girls to exercise and enjoy their right to education, work and health, while poor MHM including poor sanitation, limited bodily autonomy, stigmatization, and limiting social, cultural or religious practices can have negative impacts on women and girls. Menstrual health is therefore intrinsically linked to gender equality and the enjoyment of human rights.

Through the SYP and in partnership with the Government of Angola, Civil Society Organizations and Be Girl Inc, UNFPA Angola is leading a Menstrual Health Management program in five provinces (Luanda, Cuanza Sul, Moxico, Lunda Sul and Benguela).

In 2022, over 2,000 girls and 2,000 boys received Menstrual Health and Hygiene and SRH training in the mentioned provinces. Girls participating also received menstrual products that will enable them to manage their Menstrual Cycle with confidence and comfort.
Educational institutions are another important avenue for menstrual health and SRHR information dissemination. The CO will start the Girls Empowerment Project in partnership with the Ministry of Education in 2023. This project aims to build the girls’ life skills through the delivery of quality information on SRH in 779 schools across 18 provinces.

**YOUTH AS LEADERS AND CHANGE AGENTS IN SRHR AND BEYOND**

Young people must also be empowered to lead and make decisions that affect them. Two youth-led organizations, Centro de Apoio ao Jovem and AfriYan were involved in the implementation of the SYP program by conducting the community support group sessions and attending the monthly multisectoral coordination mechanism meetings. Centro de Apoio ao Jovem and AfriYan also participated in the consultation meetings to discuss the new Angola Country Programme which will run from 2024-2027 and will be involved in further discussion on programme implementation.
The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MINJUD), in partnership with UNFPA within the framework of the Safeguard Youth Program (SYP), developed the mobile application, Oi Kambas. The project was launched on June 17, 2022 for the whole country on the program “A Tarde é Nossa”, on TV Zimbo by the National Director for Youth Policies, Dr. Kikas Machado.

Oi Kambas is a free mobile application that aims to inform young people in an educational way on various topics of interest to them related to health and well-being, sexuality, relationships, their bodies and sexual and reproductive health. In addition to being free, the application can be used without using the internet with 80 per cent of the information available in offline mode. Oi Kambas users can access information about the health units closest to them, expand and test their knowledge, receive and share doubts and opinions in a confidential and secure way, as well as the functionality of personal health and menstrual cycle management.

The App is based on the mHealth/YouthCONNECT platform and is available on Google Play for all Android users in Angola. The app will help to promote the engagement and knowledge of young people on topics appropriate to their needs.

The program “A Tarde é Nossa”, on TV Zimbo, where the app was launched, will now have a weekly section about Oi Kambas, the result of a partnership between MINJUD, UNFPA and TV Zimbo. The space will be broadcast every Wednesday, as part of the television station’s corporate social responsibility policy.

The Angola Country Office won the UNFPA Innovation for Impact Award for supporting the launch of the Oi Kambas free mobile app on TV Zimbo.
GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Though women and girls make up slightly more than half of the population in Angola (51 per cent), their health and well-being outcomes and socio-economic opportunities are often unequal to men and boys. The World Economic Forum’s (2022) Global Gender Gap Index ranks Angola 125th out of 146 countries in gender parity, reflecting the many remaining challenges on the path to equal rights for women. Among them is gender-based violence (GBV). Surveys conducted in 2018 found that 24.7 per cent of women aged 15-49 years reported that they had been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Discriminatory norms and cultural practices often prevent women and girls from achieving their potential and participating fully in society.

To better understand GBV and its manifestations, in 2022, the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women Promotion (MASFAMU) created a GBV Statistical Portal, supported by UNFPA, to improve data collection on GBV cases. The portal will allow the Government and partners to collect, analyse and monitor electronic information about GBV cases. Collecting quantitative and qualitative data can inform prevention and response efforts. MASFAMU also established two helplines where people could call in to report incidents of sexual violence, abuse and other forms of domestic or interpersonal violence. The cases are managed by the Justice System and MASFAMU, supported by MINSA.

Harmful practices such as early and forced marriage also contribute to women’s inequality and limit their opportunities and prospects for socio-economic participation. While Angola is guided by several international, regional and national instruments regarding the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls, the prevalence rates of early marriage and adolescent pregnancy remain high. Thirty per cent of girls in Angola are married before they turn 18, and eight per cent of those are married before their 15th birthday.

MASFAMU therefore approved the draft National Strategy for the Prevention of Marriage and Early Pregnancy in Angola. The strategy seeks to discourage cultural practices that limit women and girls’ rights and thereby promotes a human rights approach to traditions and customs. The strategy will guide the government and its partners in ensuring that underage girls are protected from child marriage, early sexual debut and early pregnancy.
Although gender equality is a standalone Sustainable Development Goal (Goal 5) and all SDGs have a gender perspective, by December 2020, only 36 per cent of the indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available in Angola.

In 2021, MASFAMU with the support of UNFPA and UNDP started the process of creating the Angola Gender Observatory (OGA) to track and report progress on gender equality, and contribute to monitoring SDG 5 on Gender Equality and gender-sensitive indicators across the SDGs and the National Development Plan. This investment in gender statistics will close the large data gaps that prevent effective monitoring of progress on regional and international gender equality instruments. The OGA will also give much-needed visibility to gender inequalities, and facilitate the integration of equality promotion in the public development agenda. In 2022, the OGA structure was formalised, creating the pathway for a public presentation in 2023.
In November 2022, the world recorded its highest-ever population level at eight billion; Angola, with approximately 33.1 million people, contributed 0.41 per cent. In 2024, Angola will have a clearer picture of its current population when it holds its national Population and Housing Census, giving much-needed disaggregated data on households.

Population and housing censuses are one of the largest and most complex peacetime exercises a nation can undertake. To accomplish this, careful planning, resources, and implementation are required – from mapping the entire country to mobilizing and training enumerators, to canvassing all households, carefully monitoring census activities, to analyzing, disseminating and using the resulting data.

UNFPA is providing technical support to the National Institute of Statistics in all preparatory phases of the census. A capacity assessment was conducted in 2022 to evaluate preparations and those recommendations will guide the national statistics of ce (INE) in conducting the Census in accordance with international standards. UNFPA also provided technical assistance by engaging an international specialist in Cartography who trained INE technicians on collection and use of data thus updating the necessary mapping as the country will be divided into 92,000 sections for household interviews.

The emergence of new technologies and methodologies for census taking often requires the acquisition of new skills, tools, and the development of relevant expertise and capacity. A capacity-building exercise was carried out with fourteen INE technicians through an exposition on census operationalizations in Brazil and Cote D’Ivoire. During the workshop, participants discussed mechanisms to identify and engage with users of census data; identified approaches applied by national statistical offices to optimise the analysis of census data to respond to user needs including collaboration with academic and research institutions; and discussed mechanisms to effectively exchange and disseminate census data to users to improve the use and impact of census results. The exercise enhanced participants’ understanding of methods to disseminate census results, expand their use, accessibility and ultimately, their impact.

The workshops also served to strengthen South-South collaboration by building relationships between countries and statistical
agencies that could foster future collaborative work and identifying areas of expertise the INE could lend to other African countries in the form of technical support for census products’ development, dissemination and use. The INE team also received training on geographic information system (GIS) software, ArcGIS ESRI.

In the lead-up to the Census, UNFPA also supported the INE to produce the National Population Projection report covering 2014 to 2050. The report found that the population growth rate stands at approximately three per cent with an annual average growth of 922,000 people. UNFPA’s technical support will also cover post-Census interventions, including the production of key population subnational data.

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights with support from UNFPA continued implementing the national civil registration plan starting with the Program for Massification of Birth Registration and Identity Card Assignment which began in November 2019. So far, the program has enabled the registration of more than 4 million citizens. Identity cards have also been issued to over 2.7 million citizens for the first time. The identity database already includes birth registration data and is currently being expanded to allow a single database for the implementation of the Unique Citizen’s Number (NUC) assigned at birth. The NUC will evolve into the identity card number and correspond with other civil and vital registration information.

### POPULATION DYNAMICS

#### KEY RESULTS FOR 2022

- **National Statistics Institute team trained in Cartography in preparation for the 2024 Census.**
- **14** INE technicians improved their professional capacity through exposition on Census operationalization in Brazil and Cote D’Ivoire and training on the software ArcGIS ESRI.
- **Capacity Assessment to carry out the 2024 Census finalized and recommendations will guide the National Statistics Institute to carry out the census according to international standards.**
As economies began to stabilise following the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA continued to broaden its resource base and work with the GoA to expand SRHR services and information.

UNFPA’s investment in Angola amounted to approximately USD 6,214,211 million in 2022. This included an investment of USD 3,993,80,32 million in regular resources and USD 2220231,67 million in other resources from donors. The UNFPA Angola CO enhanced its efforts to secure domestic financing for the ICPD agenda by securing resources from the Government of Angola (GoA) to extend the coverage of quality health services for women and girls in hard-to-reach areas. Funds were successfully mobilized through the World Bank and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the government’s humanitarian response in the southern region.

Following a successful negotiation with the Ministry of Education, the Girls Empowerment project which addresses the needs of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Menstrual Health Management will commence in 2023 and run for three years.

During the preparation processes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the 9th CPD, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the UNFPA Angola CO prepared the respective Common Country Assessment (CCA) and White Paper with fundamental information on population change, megatrends, including climate change that affect the three transformative results and the Programme of Action of the ICPD. The CCA identifies critical development issues for advocacy, policy dialogue and the preparation of the UNSDCF.

The Angola CO also supported government and civil society implementing partners (IPs) to better understand its financial and programmatic procedures and improve efficiency through capacity-building training. The training was also used as an opportunity to reinforce the Zero Tolerance Policy in force in the United Nations system against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The Angola CO led the design and development of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Inter-Agency Action Plan, which was approved by the United Nations Country Team. The CO also has a designated PSEA focal point with clear terms of reference.
Our global goals for women and girls, can only be achieved through partnerships. Similarly, flexible and predictable funding is crucial to UNFPA’s mission to realize the ICPD goals by 2030. We are grateful, that while recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and reorganizing their operations, our partners have resolutely prioritized access to sexual and reproductive health services for the most left-behind communities, particularly those in humanitarian settings. The generous support of our donors, and the dedicated work of our partners continue to make our programmes and results possible. Through your efforts, we can demonstrate impact and change the lives of women, girls and young people across Angola.
UNFPA works in close partnership with the Government of Angola, which provides the policy framework for its mandate and implements many of the key programmes. Other implementing partners include international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations (including NGOs, community-based organizations, associations and networks). The Angola CO also relies on its close collaboration with international development partners including UN agencies, and international donors. UNFPA extends its appreciation to all partners across sectors who were instrumental in the achievement of our strategic results in 2021.

Government of Angola partners:

- Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP)
- Ministry of Education (MED)
- Ministry of Energy and Water (MINEA)
- Ministry of Health (MINSA)
- Ministry of Information and Social Communication Technologies (MINTTICS)
- Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUSDH)
- Ministry of Social Actions, Family and Women Promotion (MASFAMU)
- Ministry of Transport (MINTRANS)
- Ministry of Youth and Sports (MINJUD)
- Municipal Administration of Menongue
- National Directorate of Public Health (DNSP)
- National Civil Protection
- National Institute of Statistics (INE)
- National Youth Council (CNJ)
- Provincial Government of Cuando Cubango
- Provincial Government of Cunene
- Provincial Government of Huambo
- Provincial Government of Huila
- Provincial Government of Namibe

International development partners:

- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)/United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- Embassy of Netherlands in Angola
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Resident Coordinator Office (RCO)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Implementing partners from civil society, include:

- African Youth and Adolescents Network Angola (AfriYan)
- Aid for the Development of People for People (ADPP)
- Angolan Network of AIDS Service Organizations (ANASO)
- Angolan Women’s Network (REDE MULHER)
- Be Girl Inc. (Headquarters and Mozambique Office)
- Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA)
- IAJ - Youth Angolan Institute
- Iris - LGBTQIA Association
- Mwana Pwo: Transforming Young Women into Leaders
- Prazedor NGO
- Youth Friendly Services Center of FUBU
- Youth Support Center (CAJ)

*note this list does not include all government partners at the district or provincial levels.*