



UNFPA BANGLADESH

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

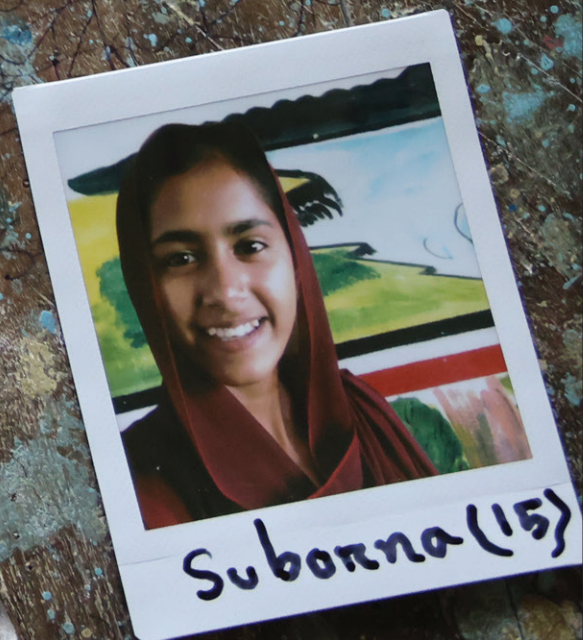






TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	4
2023 at a glance	6
1. Towards UNFPA's transformative results	9
• Towards zero preventable maternal deaths	10
♦ Jilki Sharma	15
• Towards zero unmet need for family planning	16
♦ Fariha Begum	18
• Towards zero gender-based violence and harmful practices	20
♦ Marija	30
2. Humanitarian response	33
• Rohingya refugee response	34
• Climate change and natural disasters	38
• What's in the Dignity Kit?	42
♦ Yasmin Akhter	45
3. Evidence and advocacy	47
4. Leaving no one behind	50
♦ Purnima	54
5. Partnership and innovation	56
6. 2023 total delivery	60



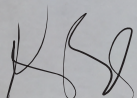
FOREWORD

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is proud to be a partner of the Government of Bangladesh on its development journey. The results presented in this report represent thousands of human stories.

In 2023, over 150,000 babies were delivered safely by midwives, constituting 81% of all deliveries in UNFPA-supported sub-district hospitals. Over 2,000,000 people were able to make an informed choice of contraceptive methods and thus were able to plan their families, their lives, and their futures. UNFPA's women-friendly spaces in Cox's Bazar were visited by over 229,000 women and girls, who received services, information, and referral. We are privileged to be in a position to touch so many lives and positively contribute to these individuals' stories.

We are profoundly conscious that the road ahead of us is long and challenging, made even more so by the impacts of climate change. Yet every mother who survives childbirth thanks to a highly skilled midwife and a well equipped health care system, is a triumph. Every girl who escapes the indignity of child marriage, stays in school, and receives an education, is a celebration of potential and promise. Every woman who lives safe from violence represents a quiet victory.

And all of these represent the success of duty bearers in upholding the human rights of women and girls; their right to access and enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to live with freedom without fear. With less than a decade left to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda, UNFPA remains committed to supporting the Government to achieve the vision of a Bangladesh where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Kristine Blokhuis
UNFPA Representative



Bed - 09

2,030,000

received modern contraceptives as a result of UNFPA family planning campaigns.

81%

of deliveries at sub-district hospitals were conducted by midwives, compared to 35% in 2018 - with midwives delivering over 150,000 births in 2023.

229,000

women and girls visited 56 UNFPA supported Women-Friendly Spaces in Cox's Bazar.

8700

midwives were trained and licensed according to the International Confederation of Midwives standard, with UNFPA technical support.

265

police officials were trained on GBV harm reduction, and 92 police desks across Bangladesh received more than 38,000 women and girls.

69,000

community members and religious leaders were engaged in promoting gender equality, healthy relationships, and empowering adolescent girls in five districts.

11,600

adolescent girls remained in school with UNFPA support, and engaged in gender-transformative life skills education programmes.

16,165

adolescents and young people received information and counselling on menstruation, child marriage, mental health and SRHR and GBV issues through Alapon Helpline.

8

upazilas across Bangladesh were declared fistula-free, after 505 women were supported with surgery to repair their injuries.

311,500

women in 25 priority districts were screened for cervical cancer.



2023 AT A GLANCE





1

TOWARDS UNFPA'S TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS

UNFPA is committed to achieving three transformative results by 2030 - zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices.

The three zeros aim to achieve a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled by 2030.

In 2023, UNFPA continued its efforts to secure the rights of young girls and women in close collaboration with the government, civil society organisations, and key partners, with a focus on reaching the most marginalised and vulnerable populations first.

➤ TOWARDS ZERO PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS

Maternal mortality remains high in Bangladesh, despite enormous progress over the last several decades. A shortage of skilled midwives and the need to improve the quality of care provided by the health system are contributing factors.

UNFPA provides technical support to the Government of Bangladesh to extend midwife-led medical care nationwide to prevent maternal and newborn deaths.

- ▶ More than 8700 midwives have graduated from the Bachelor's degree programme that UNFPA helped create, offered in 173 institutions. Thanks to UNFPA's advocacy to the government, 5,000 midwife positions have been established.
- ▶ In 26 UNFPA-supported districts, 60% of public health facilities provide midwifery-led care, including emergency obstetric and newborn care.
- ▶ Midwives conducted 81% of deliveries at sub-district hospitals, compared to 35% in 2018 - with midwives delivering over 150,000 births in 2023.
- ▶ To improve monitoring of maternal death, UNFPA supported nine priority districts to begin implementation of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response.



- ▶ In health facilities receiving UNFPA support, 90% of obstetric emergencies were effectively managed by the end of 2023 and 34% now offer 24/7 emergency care. Over 7000 women were treated.
- ▶ Clinical mentorship and advocacy in 21 districts resulted in an 11% increase in the uptake of 1st antenatal care visit and a 15% increase in the uptake of 4th antenatal care visit compared to 2022.
- ▶ Using telemedicine, registered midwives provided over 101,000 women with antenatal care, postnatal care, and referral to gender-based violence services.
- ▶ Under UNFPA's leadership, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, WHO, and UNICEF, the National Cervical Cancer Strategy (2023-2030) was revised and updated.
- ▶ UNFPA supported cervical cancer screenings for over 311,000 women in 25 priority districts. The over 7000 women who tested positive were referred for further diagnosis and treatment.





Jilki Sharma

Before she was born, Jilki Sharma's parents lost their first child in childbirth. Throughout her childhood, she witnessed their deep grief as they struggled to cope with the loss and she came to understand that proper medical care during childbirth can save lives. Motivated by this experience, Jilki decided to pursue education as a midwife after completing higher secondary school.

As a midwife, Jilki faces many different types of challenges. In the remote communities of Bandarban, for example, Jilki has faced difficulties with poor transportation infrastructure. Yet that has not deterred her from supporting pregnant and birthing women. During a flood in Bandarban, Jilki found herself in a boat with a labouring mother and despite the trying circumstances, the delivery was successful. This was one of her proudest moments. Jilki considers pursuing midwifery as one of her best decisions, and feels pride in assisting mothers during their most critical moments.

The Bangladesh government, with technical support from UNFPA, is working to extend midwife-led medical care nationwide to reduce maternal and newborn deaths.

➤ TOWARDS ZERO UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning is a human right. Access to safe and voluntary family planning has profound implications for women, enabling them to plan not only their families but also their lives and careers. It can hence be a powerful tool for breaking cycles of poverty. Family planning prevents unintended pregnancy, which again prevents mortality from unsafe abortion. UNFPA works to ensure rights and choices for every woman.

- ▶ With UNFPA's technical assistance, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare updated the National Population Policy 2012 to a rights-based population policy.
- ▶ The first ever Bangladesh National Family Planning Strategy (2023-2030) was formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with support from UNFPA, offering a rights-based and people-centred framework for ensuring universal family planning services to all.
- ▶ 67% of health centres supported by UNFPA offered postpartum and post-abortion care and family planning services.
- ▶ As a result of nationwide UNFPA campaigns, more than 2,030,000 people received modern contraceptives.
- ▶ A Family Planning Strategy for the Rohingya humanitarian response was formulated by the Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group under UNFPA leadership and endorsed by the Directorate General of Family Planning and the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner.
- ▶ A total of 229,446 women and girls visited UNFPA's women friendly spaces in Cox's Bazar, and 153,724 women and girls accessed SRH services through UNFPA supported facilities.



আপন

জন্ম-বিরতিকরণ খাবার বড়ি

সুকের দুধ খাওয়ানোয় এমন মায়ের জন্য আদর্শ জন্ম-বিরতিকরণ খাবার বড়ি

ওপুমা প্রজেক্টেরন মুক্ত জন্ম-বিরতিকরণ খাবার বড়ি

প্রতিটি বড়ি-তে রয়েছে ০.০৭৫ মিলিগ্রাম নরজেক্ট্রেল

সেদনবিধি ও নির্দেশাবলীর জন্য প্যাকেটের সিলভেস্ট দেখুন। শিশুদের শালাসের বাইরে রাখুন।

১৫' - ৫০' সেঃ তাপমাত্রার মধ্যে শুষ্ক স্থানে রাখুন।

প্রস্তুতকারক
রেসাল্টা লিমিটেড
রাজশাহী, গাজীপুর, বাংলাদেশ।





Fariha Begum

When she was 18 years old, Rupa Sarkar married 25-year-old Sohag Talukdar, and moved from her native village to her in-law's home in another village. As Rupa was struggling to find her footing in her new home, she met Fariha Begum, a family welfare assistant.

Fariha is employed by a project implemented by the Directorate of Family Planning with support from UNFPA to offer family planning services in rural Bangladesh, including outreach to newlyweds like Rupa and Sohag. Fariha provided the couple with condoms and contraceptive pills, and discussed family planning with them in detail. With Fariha's information in mind, Rupa and Sohag made a plan and Rupa gave birth to their first child within a few years of their marriage.

Rupa was aware and well-informed about pregnancy from the beginning, and diligently attended all necessary prenatal check-ups. Following the birth of their first child, Rupa and her husband decided to wait for two years before having any more children. Their primary focus was on the well-being of their newborn.

An increasing number of people from rural areas, such as Rupa and Sohag, are becoming aware of beneficial aspects of family planning. By breaking away from traditional norms, they are showing an interest in exploring and adopting various family planning options to prioritise their health and the well-being of their families.





➤ TOWARDS ZERO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

Almost two out of every three women have experienced gender-based violence in their lifetime and one in every three adolescent girls is married during childhood.

UNFPA works closely with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and other stakeholders to foster gender-equitable societal norms and robust policy mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and child marriage in both development and humanitarian contexts.

School Girl



I'm so happy

Early married Girl



I'm so sad.
and very much
Bothered with
my life.

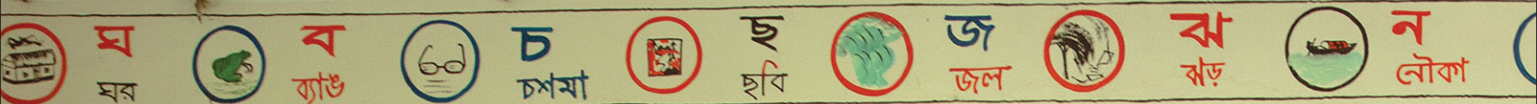
Married





ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- ▶ UNFPA and the Health Economics Unit developed a standard operating procedure for the provision of medico-legal services for gender-based violence survivors across the healthcare system, with technical input from a National Technical Working Committee, including forensic medicine, gynaecologists, paediatric surgery, judiciary, police, humanitarian aids, and social welfare experts.
- ▶ Trained medical personnel at 36% of UNFPA-supported district and sub-district hospitals provide survivor-centred clinical support and referral to gender-based violence survivors.
- ▶ 265 police officials received training and sensitisation on gender-based violence and multi-sectoral services in priority districts, and more than 38,000 women and girls were served at 92 service desks in police stations.
- ▶ Three mental health and psychosocial support training modules were adopted into the core training programme of police, midwives, and frontline health workers of the Directorate General of Family Planning.
- ▶ More than 161,000 individuals, including over 48,000 men and boys, in five districts were reached with social behaviour change-communication materials developed by UNFPA and the Department of Women's Affairs and NGOs to raise awareness about gender-based violence response and prevention.
- ▶ UNFPA partnered with ten national print and broadcast media to challenge harmful social norms, focusing on son preference and gender inequality. The national daily newspaper, Prothom Alo, launched the *Celebrating Daughters* campaign to emphasise the value of women and girls, which reached over 93,100,000 impressions in 2023.
- ▶ With technical assistance from UNFPA, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics completed the methodology for the third round of Violence against Women surveys, setting a record with a sample size of nearly 29,000, the largest globally recorded for such surveys.
- ▶ In Cox's Bazar, over 316,000 people participated in SASA! Together gender-based violence prevention activities in the refugee camps and surrounding host communities.



ব্যঞ্জন বর্ণের চার্ট

ক	খ	গ	ঘ	ঙ
চ	ছ	জ	ঝ	ঞ
ট	ঠ	ড	ঢ	ণ
ত	থ	দ	ধ	ন
প	ফ	ব	ভ	ম
য	র	ল	শ	ষ
স	হ	ড়	ঢ়	য়
ং	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ

জাতীয় পাখি দোয়েল



৬নং বাগবাজী সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়
মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।

জাতীয় ফুল শাপলা



৬নং বাগবাজী সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়
মেলান্দহ, জামালপুর।

(১ থেকে ৫০)

১ এক	২ দুই	৩ তিন	৪ চার
৫ পাঁচ	৬ আট	৭ নয়	৮ দশ
৯ একাত্ত	১০ দশ	১১ একদশ	১২ দুইদশ
১৩ তের	১৪ চৌদ্দ	১৫ পনের	১৬ ছোল্ল
১৭ একুশ	১৮ বিশ	১৯ একুশ	২০ বাইশ
২১ পঁচিশ	২২ ষাট	২৩ সাতাশ	২৪ আটাশ
২৫ একত্রিশ	২৬ বত্রিশ	২৭ তেরত্রিশ	২৮ চল্লিশ
২৯ পঁচাত্তর	৩০ ষাট	৩১ সাতাশ	৩২ আটত্রিশ
৩৩ তেরত্রিশ	৩৪ চৌত্রিশ	৩৫ পঁচাত্তর	৩৬ ষাটত্রিশ
৩৭ একত্রিশ	৩৮ বত্রিশ	৩৯ তেরত্রিশ	৪০ চল্লিশ
৪১ পঁচাত্তর	৪২ ষাট	৪৩ সাতাশ	৪৪ আটত্রিশ
৪৫ একত্রিশ	৪৬ বত্রিশ	৪৭ তেরত্রিশ	৪৮ চল্লিশ
৪৯ পঁচাত্তর	৫০ ষাট	৫১ সাতাশ	৫২ আটত্রিশ








ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

- ▶ UNFPA, UNICEF, the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board supported the development of an in-school curriculum framework for secondary education, and over 500,000 teachers were trained on the updated curriculum, which contains a more extensive life skills education content.
- ▶ The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, with technical assistance from UNFPA and UNICEF, developed and finalised the costing of the National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Marriage (NAPECM), including an M&E framework.
- ▶ 4 districts have developed their own localised action plans, guided by the NAPECM, and have started implementation.
- ▶ Over 3000 government officials at the national and sub-national levels in six districts were trained to implement and monitor the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 and NAPECM at the district level.
- ▶ Life skills education was delivered to more than 19,000 married and unmarried adolescent girls at Kishori resource centres in five districts including urban slums, and through courtyard sessions.



- 
- ▶ The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs started using a UNFPA-developed career handbook in over 4800 Kishori resource centres, reaching more than 146,000 youths across the country.
 - ▶ 30 youth-led and women-led community-based organisations, and 150 girl activists across six districts were empowered to advocate against child marriage and promote gender equality. The initiative reached over 69,000 community members through social and behavioural change interventions.
 - ▶ More than 16,000 adolescents received information and counselling on menstruation, child marriage, mental health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence through the Alapon Helpline.
 - ▶ In partnership with CSOs, UNFPA's social media programme reached over 30 million people. The programme highlighted the repercussions of child marriage, and emphasized the importance of education and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.





Marija

Marija, a tenth-grader from Jamalpur, faced daily bullying and harassment by a group of neighbourhood boys on her way to school. For a long time, she felt powerless, but things took a turn for the better when she heard about her local, UNFPA-supported Kishori resource centre. Here, Marija found a safe space and received support from her peers. She approached her school's Anti Sexual Harassment Committee to share her experience, resulting in the school taking steps to teach the students about gender equality and the consequences of harassment.

As a result of her experience of personal empowerment, Marija realised that protection isn't just about girls staying cautious and avoiding boys, but about educating both genders on respect and equality. Supported by her parents, friends, and her school, Marija grew more confident and now aspires to be an administrative officer, advocating for gender equality.

To combat sexual harassment and child marriage, initiatives like the Accelerating Actions to End Child Marriage project, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, have established Kishori resource centres. These centres provide over 20,000 adolescent girls with life skills education, covering topics from sexual rights and livelihood to gender-based violence, aiming to create a secure environment for every girl to realise her full potential.





2

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Women and girls are vulnerable during humanitarian crises. Gender-based violence increases, and many families under difficult circumstances cope by marrying off young daughters. Family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services may be challenging to access, and many women may struggle to manage their menstruation in a dignified way.

Pregnancy and childbirth do not wait for safe and peaceful times. It is therefore essential that pregnant women be able to give birth safely - even in an emergency.

Bangladesh has generously hosted around one million Rohingya refugees since 2017, in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char island. Since the onset of the crisis, UNFPA has provided integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services to Rohingya women and girls, as well as to women and girls in the host community. UNFPA's programmes for adolescents and youth work with both boys and girls to provide life skills education, promote gender-equitable attitudes, and prevent gender-based violence.




➤ ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE

- ▶ 284 midwives and over 500 community health workers provided integrated lifesaving sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services to over 316,000 Rohingya refugees and surrounding host communities, through 80 health facilities, women-friendly spaces, and women multipurpose centres. In Bhasan Char, 18 midwives were deployed to eight health facilities, including women friendly spaces and women and girl's safe spaces, delivering integrated sexual and reproductive health services to more than 4,500 women.
- ▶ Health facilities supported by UNFPA provided family planning services to over 153,000 women and girls in both the refugee camp and host communities, facilitating more than 9,500 facility-based deliveries, 82,500 antenatal care visits, and 26,500 postnatal care visits.
- ▶ Gender-based violence prevention and response services were accessed by more than 326,000 women and girls, including over 3,900 persons with disabilities through the 56 women friendly spaces supported by UNFPA in the Rohingya camps and host communities - over 33,000 referrals were made to gender-based violence multi-sectoral services.





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- ▶ In Rohingya refugee camps, UNFPA implemented a life skills education programme equipping over 12,000 adolescents, and 6,500 caregivers with knowledge and skills for informed decision-making about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Community outreach activities reached more than 4,800 host community members with key messages on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the protection of adolescent boys and girls.
 - ▶ Over 25,000 girls, boys and their caregivers benefitted from interventions for Adolescent and Youth Programme in Emergency, covering life skills enhancement, sports, theatre for development, peer leader outreach, mental health and psychosocial support-services, and menstrual hygiene management-kit distributions.
 - ▶ UNFPA continued to lead the GBV Sub-Sector, coordinating the work of 67 partner organisations.
 - ▶ The Gender-based Violence Sub Sector and 33 gender-based violence camp focal points developed a service facility dashboard that enables the real-time mapping of 184 gender-based violence service facility points, and an interactive referral pathway dashboard to effectively facilitate updated referral service information-sharing in the refugee camps.

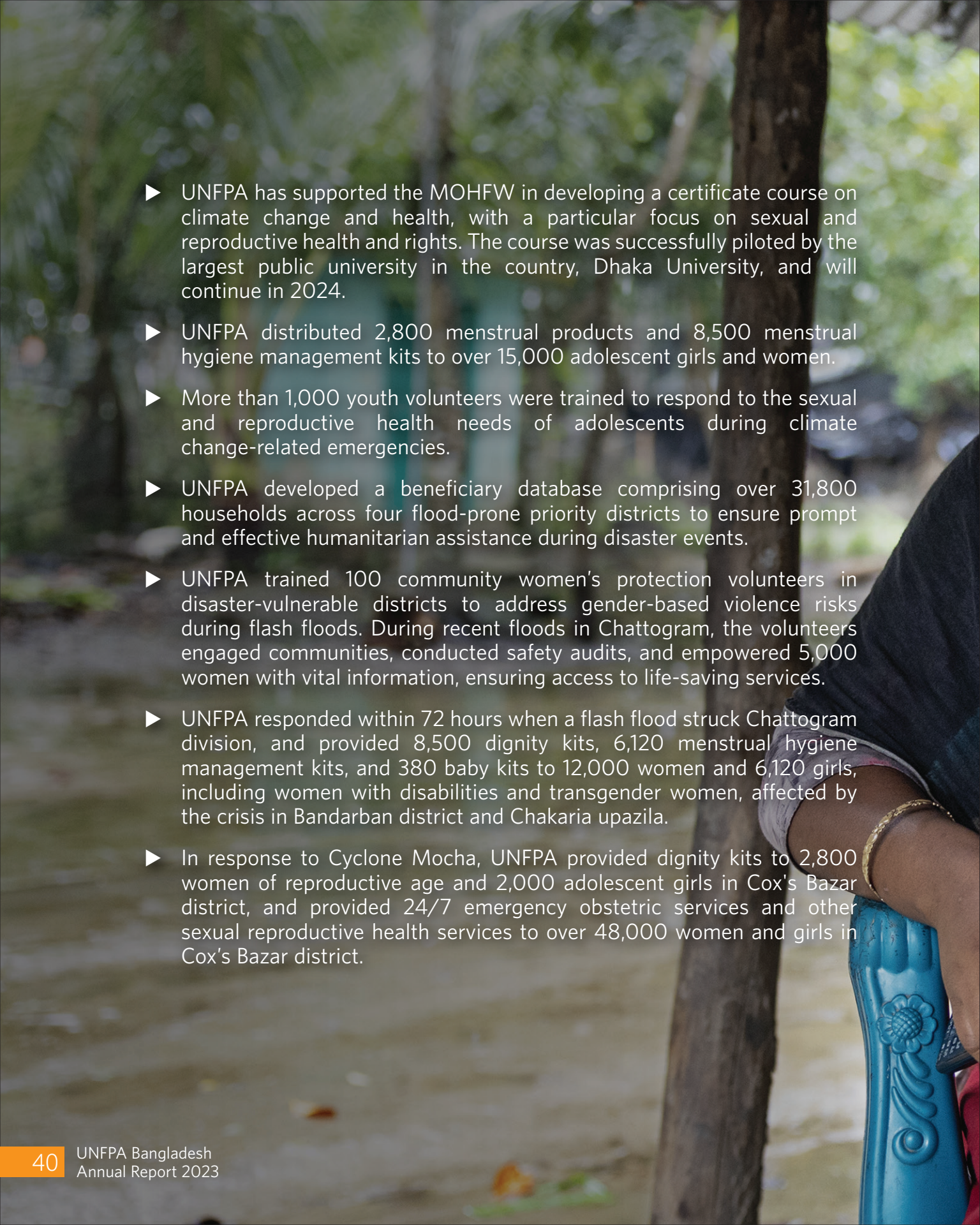
➤ CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Bangladesh's unique geography intensifies its vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe natural disasters. These impacts affect women and girls, including their health, safety, and socio-economic situation and increasing their vulnerability to gender-based violence and child marriage.

UNFPA is committed to support locally led adaptation, mitigate the social impacts of climate change, and to support resilient communities where women and girls can thrive.

- ▶ UNFPA took the lead in revising the National Adaptation Plan for Health for Bangladesh in 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), WHO, and UNICEF, and effectively positioned sexual and reproductive health in the Bangladesh National Action Plan.
- ▶ With UNFPA support, the MOHFW integrated the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) into the 5th Health Sector Operational Plan, and 80 government healthcare providers, including doctors, midwives, and nurses from two disaster-prone districts received MISP training.
- ▶ The General Economic Division of the Population Planning Commission and UNFPA organised a policy dialogue on the linkages between climate change, displacement, and access to SRH services, presenting key findings from a survey involving 2,400 respondents, to inform the Government's 9th Five-Year Plan.
- ▶ UNFPA developed modules on climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights for health-care providers, and 300 providers were trained in two sub-districts. The module for nurses and midwives is being integrated into the formal midwifery curriculum.



- 
- ▶ UNFPA has supported the MOHFW in developing a certificate course on climate change and health, with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The course was successfully piloted by the largest public university in the country, Dhaka University, and will continue in 2024.
 - ▶ UNFPA distributed 2,800 menstrual products and 8,500 menstrual hygiene management kits to over 15,000 adolescent girls and women.
 - ▶ More than 1,000 youth volunteers were trained to respond to the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents during climate change-related emergencies.
 - ▶ UNFPA developed a beneficiary database comprising over 31,800 households across four flood-prone priority districts to ensure prompt and effective humanitarian assistance during disaster events.
 - ▶ UNFPA trained 100 community women's protection volunteers in disaster-vulnerable districts to address gender-based violence risks during flash floods. During recent floods in Chattogram, the volunteers engaged communities, conducted safety audits, and empowered 5,000 women with vital information, ensuring access to life-saving services.
 - ▶ UNFPA responded within 72 hours when a flash flood struck Chattogram division, and provided 8,500 dignity kits, 6,120 menstrual hygiene management kits, and 380 baby kits to 12,000 women and 6,120 girls, including women with disabilities and transgender women, affected by the crisis in Bandarban district and Chakaria upazila.
 - ▶ In response to Cyclone Mocha, UNFPA provided dignity kits to 2,800 women of reproductive age and 2,000 adolescent girls in Cox's Bazar district, and provided 24/7 emergency obstetric services and other sexual reproductive health services to over 48,000 women and girls in Cox's Bazar district.



গণ উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র
Gana Uন্নayan Kendra
কিটের উপকরণ সমূহ

মহিলাদের অন্তরীস
৩ টির ১ সেট



কাপড় ধোয়া সাবান-
৪ টি



পুনরায় ব্যবহারযোগ্য
স্যানিটারি কাপড়- ৩ পিস



সূঁচি শাড়ি
১ টি



বালতি
১ টি



খৈ ত্রাশ
১ টি



মশালা
১ টি



মাসিকের তৈল
১০০০ মিলি

CERF

ONE THOUSAND TAKA

ONE HUNDRED TAKA

BANGLADESH

১০০০

১০০০

১০০০

বিভিন্ন কোম্পানি-সহ করে বিতরণ

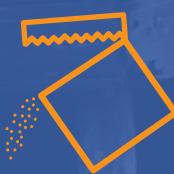
WHAT'S IN THE DIGNITY KIT?



Underwear



Bath soap



Washing powder



Toothpaste and brush



Reusable pad



Flashlight



Gamcha



Bucket



Sandals



Saree



Mosquito net



Shaving set



Comb



Face mask



Information about GBV services







Yasmin Akhter

Yasmin Akhter, a 26-year-old community volunteer from UNFPA Bangladesh, is stationed at a women-friendly space in Nayapara Registered Camp. During Cyclone Mocha, her duty remained her priority. "I can't stop natural disasters, but I can create awareness messages for the community and reduce the risk," Yasmin said.

In 2023, Cyclone Mocha caused damage in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Yasmin and her family were among the victims of the cyclone. Despite the risks, she went around to the people of her community and conducted outreach sessions to inform them about the imminent danger.

Before the disaster struck, Yasmin encouraged local women and girls to take shelter at the women-friendly space, which had been outfitted as an emergency shelter in preparation for disaster events. On the day the cyclone made landfall, Yasmin went into the community to help vulnerable women and children to safety. She provided dignity kits whenever needed. Yasmin said, "I am here to support the community, make them aware of the danger and risk that they could face, and how to prevent them. Once I heard about the cyclone, it was impossible for me to stay home. I am happy to help."




3

EVIDENCE AND ADVOCACY

Fulfilling the promise of the International Conference on Population and Development requires evidence-based solutions to challenges of persisting inequalities, developing forward-looking policies that take advantage of the demographic transition, and effective advocacy for stronger political will to achieve shared goals.

- ▶ Several key events were organised under the umbrella of UNFPA's long-standing support to the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat. A policy dialogue aimed at harnessing gender dividends to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action yielded recommendations to increase the implementation efficiency of gender-focused government programmes. A consultative meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives. The consultation fed into efforts to enhance reproductive health services for women and adolescent girls while aiming to prevent maternal mortality in urban slums.
- ▶ Several studies were undertaken to add to the pool of evidence around population issues:
 - ◆ A study of the linkages between climate change, displacement, and the accessibility of sexual reproductive health services;
 - ◆ A study of the socioeconomic exclusion faced by the third gender population in Bangladesh; and
 - ◆ A comprehensive monograph specifically targeting the slum population based on the population and housing census.



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- ▶ UNFPA, jointly with the General Economics Division of Bangladesh Planning Commission, launched a brief called 'Changing Population Dynamics of Bangladesh and Policy Actions to Realise the 1st and 2nd Demographic Dividend.' Recommendations included the National Transfer Account (NTA) updates, ministry capacity building for NTA activities, and policy papers development for the 9th Five-Year Plan to harness the demographic dividend.
 - ▶ The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, with technical support from UNFPA, and collaborative efforts among various stakeholders, successfully developed the Violence against Women survey protocol, questionnaire, and manual - and domains for assessing the impact of climate change on violence against women were included.



4

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

UNFPA's ambition is to transform disempowerment and exclusion into genuine agency and inclusion is fundamental to UNFPA's mission of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

- The Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh are remote and difficult to reach, and the people who live there have reduced access to services. To improve access to maternal and child health services, UNFPA has established and supported ten maternity waiting homes to support women who travel long distances for skilled birthcare.





- ▶ 8 upazilas across Bangladesh were declared fistula-free, after 505 women were supported with surgery to repair their injuries.
- ▶ Over 2,400 female sex workers received integrated sexual and reproductive health and HIV services in 5 brothels. In Cox's Bazar, more than 3,000 male sex workers, men who have sex with men, and members of the gender-diverse population received integrated sexual and reproductive health, health, and gender-based violence services.
- ▶ A soft skill module was developed for people with disabilities and their caregivers to mitigate gender-based violence-related risks. Seven organisations received gender-based violence training from UNFPA, enhancing their ability to refer survivors with disabilities to services and use the Disability Accessibility Tool effectively.
- ▶ To ensure that women and girls, including pregnant women, women with disabilities, transgender persons, and youth with special needs, were positioned to make their own choices about their safety and well-being, UNFPA's leveraged its cash initiative, Mobile Money Transfer, which offers a discreet option for people to access cash in a dignified manner.



Purnima

Purnima, a 47-year-old transgender woman, has faced discrimination because of her identity. Ten years ago, she became acquainted with UNFPA implementing partner, Bandhu Social Welfare Society in Cox's Bazar, an organisation focused on healthcare and human rights for sexual minorities. Over time, Purnima became involved in many of the organisation's activities and began volunteering for the UNFPA-supported project 'Addressing the sexual and reproductive health and right needs of men, boys, and transgender among Rohingya Community in Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar.'

Purnima regularly volunteered to provide health counselling to other transgender people, many of whom are reluctant to seek medical attention due to stigma. She encouraged them to visit Bandhu Social Welfare Society for treatment, resulting in many seeking care. Purnima supported others with information about sexually transmitted infections and HIV and would help arrange tests for those interested. With the support of UNFPA and Bandhu, Purnima also offered legal aid to anyone experiencing social ostracism or harassment.

In Bangladesh, UNFPA has played a critical role in breaking the silence around the challenges faced by many of the country's most vulnerable people. With the goal of leaving no one behind, UNFPA works with marginalised groups to ensure that they can enjoy the full benefit of improved health, safety, and welfare.



5

PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATION


Achieving big impact requires creative thinking and new solutions. In 2023, several effective innovations were scaled up, and new partnerships were made.

- ▶ 4.2 million garment workers have access to contraceptives thanks to a newly established partnership between UNFPA and the Directorate General of Family Planning, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association.
- ▶ A certificate course on climate change and health was developed by UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and successfully piloted in the largest public university in Bangladesh, Dhaka University. Modules on climate change and SRHR were also developed and delivered to 300 healthcare providers.
- ▶ UNFPA launched a partnership with Zaynax Health, Impact Hub Dhaka, Gram Unnayan Karma, and ToguMogu to expand access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services for women by offering training and mentorship to woman pharmacist entrepreneurs. 66 woman pharmacists were deployed in 2023, with more to come through Komlaful Pharmacy project.

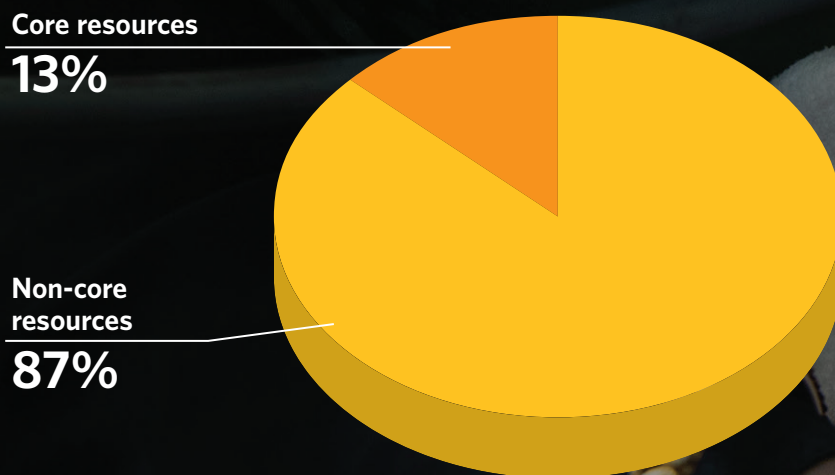
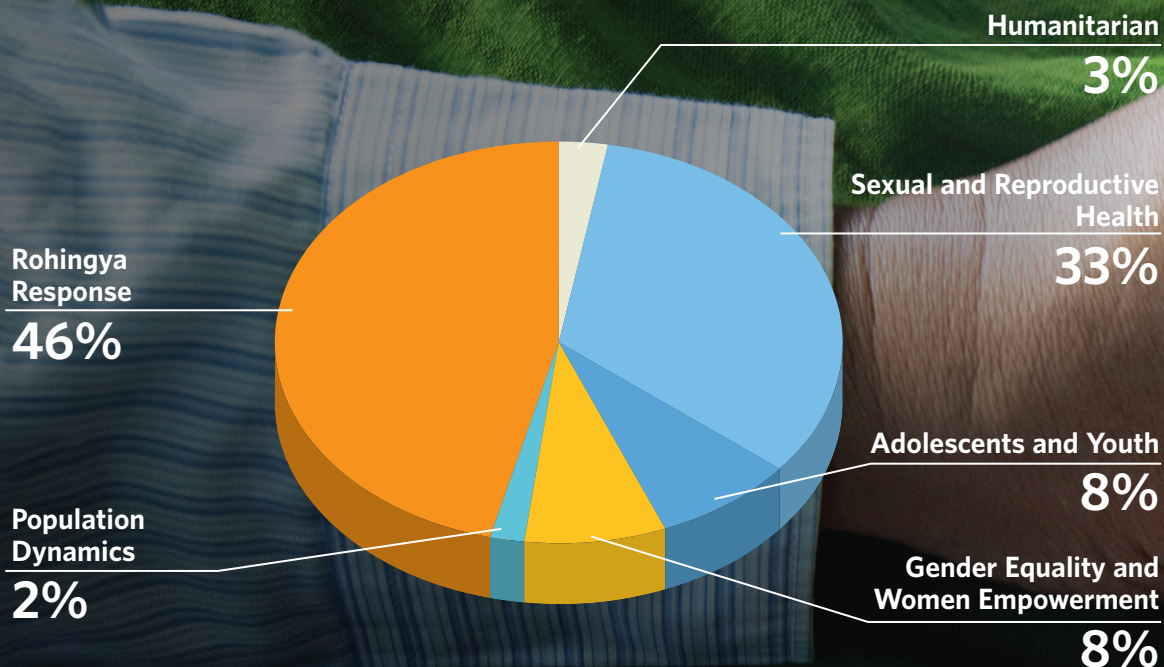


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- WFP, FAO, and UNFPA are using blockchain to reach low-income women in the urban slums with food aid and information about menstrual health management and gender-based violence, including the provision of sanitary napkins to 3300 adolescent girls.
- Mobile Money Transfer was deployed to reach 4000 pregnant women, women and youth with disabilities, and transgender women after the floods in Chattogram, providing them with the opportunity to discreetly make their own choices about their needs.
- Over 1300 mothers were referred for complications during pregnancy and delivery in urban slums using application MaJaan, developed by UNFPA and BRAC.
- UNFPA partnered with the largest daily newspaper in Bangladesh, Prothom Alo, launching the 'Celebrating Daughters' campaign in support of gender-equitable norms. Thanks to this partnership, UNFPA was able to vastly expand the reach of its messaging.

6 2023 TOTAL DELIVERY





UNFPA continued on the delivery of its 10th Country Programme in Bangladesh, focusing sexual and reproductive health, adolescent and youth, gender equality and women's empowerment, humanitarian response, and population dynamics. Through the 2023 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Response, UNFPA delivered sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and adolescent and youth services to women, girls, and young people both among Rohingya refugees and in the surrounding host community.

Total delivery: \$45,256,271



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Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted,
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's potential is fulfilled

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