



NARAL
Pro-Choice America Foundation

United Nations Population Fund

Founded in 1969,¹ the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the largest internationally funded source of population assistance to developing countries. For nearly 40 years, UNFPA – which is funded entirely from voluntary contributions from participating nations – has provided more than \$6 billion² in aid to about 150 countries³ for voluntary family planning and maternal and child health care.

With its mission “to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDs, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect,”⁴ UNFPA has:

- Increased access to reproductive-health services, improved approaches to adolescent reproductive health, promoted safe pregnancy and delivery, reduced maternal mortality, provided emergency assistance in refugee situations, and prevented and treated HIV/AIDS.
- Provided emergency reproductive-health kits – including equipment for safe deliveries and emergency contraceptives for rape victims – for Kosovar refugees, earthquake victims in Turkey, and women in East Timor.
- Provided great assistance to a number of African countries to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

Despite claims to the contrary, UNFPA does not support coercive abortion practices. In fact, UNFPA rigorously monitors projects to ensure compliance with international standards of voluntarism and informed choice. Yet, anti-choice lawmakers have spread misinformation about UNFPA, generally, and its China program, specifically, to deny U.S. funding to an organization that provides much needed family-planning services to developing countries around the world. Interestingly, even the Bush administration’s own fact-finding team, which visited China in spring 2002, disagrees with the administration’s position, *finding no evidence of UNFPA wrongdoing, and recommending the immediate release of funding for UNFPA.*⁵ Despite this unambiguous recommendation, the president revoked funding for UNFPA for straight seven years.

History of U.S. Contributions to UNFPA:

1985	Congress restricts funding to UNFPA due to anti-choice allegations about its program in China and the Chinese government's coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization programs. ⁶
1986-1993	Even though UNFPA condemns all forms of coercion, no U.S. contributions go to UNFPA because of misinformed beliefs about the UNFPA China program. UNFPA adopts a strict set of conditions on its China program, reiterating its prohibition against coercion in population programs.
1993	President Clinton restores U.S. funding to UNFPA. ⁷
1998	The anti-choice majority in Congress completely eliminates U.S. funding for UNFPA in the FY'99 Foreign Operations appropriations bill. ⁸ The withdrawal of the U.S. contribution results in a loss of \$20 million from UNFPA's annual budget.
1999	In the FY'00 Foreign Operations appropriations bill, Congress restores the U.S. contribution of \$25 million to UNFPA, with certain conditions. The U.S. contribution is required to be kept in a segregated account, and one dollar of the appropriated U.S. funds is deducted for each dollar of other nations' contributions spent by UNFPA in China. ⁹ (This restriction was eliminated in the FY'02 Foreign Operations appropriations bill.)
1999-2002	With U.S. support between 1999 and 2002, UNFPA implements a program in 32 Chinese counties that eliminates birth quotas, demonstrating to the Chinese government that voluntary family-planning programs work in China and should be universally adopted. Contrary to claims from anti-family-planning advocates and lawmakers, UNFPA's presence in China has had <u>positive</u> , not harmful, effects.
2001	The FY'02 foreign-aid bill eliminated the requirement that U.S. funds be kept in a separate account and that one dollar of appropriated U.S. funds be deducted for each dollar UNFPA spends in China.
2001	After signing the FY'02 spending bill into law, President Bush announces he is freezing all UNFPA funding. ¹⁰ The administration's actions come at the behest of anti-choice Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and allies, who continue to cite disproven allegations about the China program as his justification. ¹¹ In fact, no mainstream human-rights organization has ever accused UNFPA of being complicit in violations perpetrated by the Chinese government or elsewhere.
2002-Present	In response to public outcry over the cancelled funds, Bush is forced to send a hand-picked fact-finding team to China in spring 2002. However, the team <i>finds no evidence of UNFPA wrongdoing, and recommended the immediate release of funding for UNFPA.</i> ¹² Despite this unambiguous recommendation, the president revokes funding for UNFPA for each of the next seven years.

Recent Congressional Action

FY'08

- June 5, 2007: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA and additional reporting requirements for the president, but stops short of changing the law that President Bush has misused to cancel funds in past years.
- June 12, 2007: House Appropriations Committee passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA and additional reporting requirements for the president, but stops short of changing the law that President Bush has misused to cancel funds in past years.
- June 21, 2007: House passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA and additional reporting requirements for the president, but stops short of changing the law that President Bush has misused to cancel funds in past years.
- June 28, 2007: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes language to guarantee that the president cannot unilaterally cancel the U.S. contribution to UNFPA, but does not include a specific funding level.
- September 6, 2007: Senate passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) offers an amendment to strip language from the bill that would guarantee that the president cannot unilaterally cancel the U.S. contribution to UNFPA, but does not include a specific funding level. The amendment passes, 48-45. The following day, the president announces his plan to withhold a sixth year of funding.
- December 17, 2007: House passes the FY'08 omnibus appropriations bill, which includes \$40 million for UNFPA, but does not include language clarifying that funding for UNFPA may not be rescinded by the president without clear evidence of wrongdoing.
- December 18, 2007: Senate passes the FY'08 omnibus appropriations bill. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA, but does not include language clarifying that funding for UNFPA may not be rescinded by the president without clear evidence of wrongdoing.
- December 26, 2007: President Bush signs the bill into law – P.L. 110-161.¹³

FY'09

- July 16, 2008: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs passes the FY'09 spending bill. The bill includes \$60 million for UNFPA and contains language clarifying that funding for UNFPA may not be rescinded by the president without clear evidence of wrongdoing.
- July 17, 2008: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'09 spending bill.¹⁴ The bill includes \$45 million for UNFPA and, like the House bill, contains language clarifying that funding for UNFPA may not be rescinded by the president without clear evidence of

wrongdoing.

- Sept. 24, 2008: House passes a FY'09 continuing resolution to keep the government funded through March 6, 2009. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA, but does not include language clarifying that funding for UNFPA may not be rescinded by the president without clear evidence of wrongdoing.
- Sept. 27, 2008: Senate passes a FY'09 continuing resolution to keep the government funded through March 6, 2009. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA, but does not include language clarifying that funding for UNFPA may not be rescinded by the president without clear evidence of wrongdoing.
- Sept. 30, 2008: President Bush signs the bill into law – P.L. 110-329.¹⁵

January 1, 2009

Notes

¹ UNFPA, "UNFPA in the UN System," at www.unfpa.org/about/unsystem.htm (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

² Press Release, UNFPA, *34 Million Friends of UNFPA Campaign Hits \$1 Million Milestone* (May 1, 2003).

³ UNFPA, "UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund: UNFPA's Global Reach," at www.unfpa.org/about/index.htm (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

⁴ UNFPA, "UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund: Our Mission," at www.unfpa.org/about/index.htm (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

⁵ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Report of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Independent Assessment Team* (May 29, 2002), at www.state.gov/g/prm/rls/rpt/2002/12122.htm (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

⁶ H.R.1555, 99th Cong. (1985).

⁷ U.S. Agency for International Development, *Memorandum for Anthony Lake, The White House: Funding of UNFPA, IPPF, WHO/HRP* (July 15, 1993).

⁸ H.R.4328, 105th Cong. (1998).

⁹ P.L.106-113, 106th Cong. (1999); see also H.R.3422, 106th Cong. (1999).

¹⁰ Press Release, White House, *President Signs Foreign Operations Appropriations Act* (January 19, 2002).

¹¹ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Report of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Independent Assessment Team* (May 29, 2002), at www.state.gov/g/prm/rls/rpt/2002/12122.htm (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

¹² Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Report of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Independent Assessment Team* (May 29, 2002), at www.state.gov/g/prm/rls/rpt/2002/12122.htm (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

¹³ P.L. 110-161, 110th Cong. (2007) at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR02764:@@X|TOM:/bss/d110query.html> (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

¹⁴ S.3288, 110th Cong. (2008) at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:SN03288:@@X> (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).

¹⁵ P.L. 110-362, 110th Cong. (2008). at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR05571:@@X|TOM:/bss/d110query.html> (last visited Nov. 7, 2008).