



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 more than 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. The UNFPA provides crucial funding for family-planning services, as well as other essential health services, for some of the poorest women in the world.

With its mission “to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV, 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 survivors – for Sudanese refugees, tsunami survivors in Indonesia, and earthquake victims in Haiti.⁵
- 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 essential family-planning services to developing countries around the world.⁶ They succeeded in blocking these funds in some years (see timeline below); former President Bush even revoked funding for UNFPA for seven straight years. However, in March 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton concluded that UNFPA does not violate any law concerning coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization; as a result, the Obama administration restored this much-needed funding to support international reproductive-health services.

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. ⁷
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. ⁸
1998	The anti-choice majority in Congress completely eliminates U.S. funding for UNFPA in the FY'99 Foreign Operations appropriations bill. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ (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. ¹¹ 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 eliminates 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ In fact, no mainstream human-rights organization has ever accused UNFPA of being complicit in violations perpetrated by the Chinese government or elsewhere.
2002-2009	In response to public outcry over the cancelled funds, in spring 2002 President Bush is forced to send a hand-picked fact-finding team to China. The team <i>finds no evidence of UNFPA wrongdoing, and recommends the immediate release of funding for UNFPA.</i> ¹⁴ Despite this unambiguous recommendation, the president revokes funding for UNFPA for each of the next seven years.

2009-present	At the start of his term, President Obama announces his intention to restore funding to UNFPA. In March 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton determines that UNFPA is in compliance with all U.S. policy requirements and releases the FY'09 funds. ¹⁵
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Recent Congressional Action

FY'11

- February 1, 2010: President Obama proposes \$50 million in funding for the UNFPA program in his FY'11 budget request.
- June 30, 2010: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'11 spending bill. The bill includes \$60 for UNFPA.
- July 29, 2010: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'11 spending bill. The bill includes \$55 million for UNFPA and eliminates the dollar-for-dollar rule that reduces the U.S. appropriation by one dollar for each dollar of other nations' contributions spent by UNFPA in China.
- February 19, 2011: House passes a spending bill intended to fund government programs through the end of the fiscal year that eliminates all funds for UNFPA. The bill fails in the Senate, and Congress passes several short-term continuing resolutions over the next several months to avert a government shutdown.
- April 14, 2011: House and Senate pass a continuing resolution for the remainder of FY'11. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA, a cut of \$15 million from FY'10 levels.
- April 15, 2011: President Obama signs the bill into law. P.L. 112-10.¹⁶

FY'12

- February 14, 2011: President Obama proposes \$47.5 million for UNFPA in his FY'12 budget request, a \$7.5 million increase over the final amount appropriated for FY'11.
- July 27, 2011: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'12 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- September 21, 2011: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'12 spending bill. The bill includes \$40 million for UNFPA, the same as FY'11 levels.
- October 5, 2011: House Foreign Affairs Committee passes H.R.2059, a stand-alone bill sponsored by anti-choice Rep. Renee Ellmers, which eliminates all funding for UNFPA.

January 1, 2012

Notes:

- ¹ UNFPA, "UNFPA and the United Nations System," at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about/pid/4629> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011).
- ² Press Release, UNFPA, *34 Million Friends of UNFPA Campaign Hits \$1 Million Milestone* (May 1, 2003).
- ³ UNFPA, "About UNFPA," at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011).
- ⁴ UNFPA, "About UNFPA" at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011).
- ⁵ UNFPA, "Responding to Sexual Violence in Darfur" at <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/sudan/> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011); UNFPA, "Assisting in Emergencies," at <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/rh.htm> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011); UNFPA, "Recovery in Haiti" at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/news/haiti/pid/5103> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011).
- ⁶ In 2011, Rep. Chris Smith held a hearing on China's one-child policy during which he and other anti-choice lawmakers maligned the UNFPA program. A week later, the House Foreign Affairs committee approved H.R.2059, a bill blocking all U.S. funds for UNFPA. During the mark-up of the legislation, anti-choice committee members cited UNFPA's alleged involvement in coercive abortion and sterilization in China as the reason for their opposition to the program, despite the fact that UNFPA is one of the only organizations working to end coercive practices in the country. *China's One-Child Policy: The Government's Massive Crime Against Women and Unborn Babies Before House Subcomm. on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights of the House Foreign Affairs Comm.*, 112th Cong. 2011 (opening statement of Rep. Chris Smith) at http://chrissmith.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Opening_Remarks_of_Chairman_Smith_2011_09_22_One_Child_Policy.pdf .
- ⁷ H.R.1555, 99th Cong. (1985).
- ⁸ U.S. Agency for International Development, *Memorandum for Anthony Lake, The White House: Funding of UNFPA, IPPF, WHO/HRP* (July 15, 1993).
- ⁹ H.R.4328, 105th Cong. (1998).
- ¹⁰ P.L.106-113, 106th Cong. (1999); *see also* H.R.3422, 106th Cong. (1999).
- 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 Oct. 13, 2011).
- ¹² Press Release, White House, *President Signs Foreign Operations Appropriations Act* (January 19, 2002).
- ¹³ 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 Oct. 13, 2011).
- ¹⁴ 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 Oct. 13, 2011).
- ¹⁵ Press Release, U.S. Department of State, *U.S. Government Support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* (Mar. 24 2009) <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/03/120841.htm> (last visited Oct. 13, 2011).
- ¹⁶ P.L. 112-10, 112th Cong. (2011) at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr1473enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr1473enr.pdf> (last visited Oct. 26, 2011).