



NARAL
Pro-Choice America

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 contributions² – has provided more than \$6 billion in aid to 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.

Benefits of UNFPA

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**, including supplying contraceptives in emergency situations, providing information and services to women who want to delay or avoid pregnancy, educating men on the benefits of birth spacing, and ensuring youth-friendly reproductive-health care.⁵
- **Reduced maternal and infant mortality** by promoting safe pregnancy and delivery, training health workers, strengthening emergency obstetric care, and ensuring reliable supplies of medicine and equipment.⁶
- **Prevented and treated HIV/AIDS** by supporting comprehensive sex education, creating a safe space for adolescent girls, and advocating for accurate reproductive-health information and services.⁷
- **Provided emergency assistance in refugee situations** – including reproductive-health kits with equipment for safe deliveries and emergency contraceptives for rape survivors – for Sudanese refugees, tsunami survivors in Indonesia, and earthquake victims in Haiti.⁸

Anti-Choice Opposition to UNFPA

Despite anti-choice claims to the contrary, UNFPA does not support coercive abortion practices. In fact, UNFPA stands firmly in opposition to coercion, and 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.⁹ 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, then 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. ¹⁰
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. ¹¹
1998	The anti-choice majority in Congress completely eliminates U.S. funding for UNFPA in the FY’99 Foreign Operations appropriations bill. ¹² 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. ¹³
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. ¹⁴ 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 Operations appropriations 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. ¹⁵ 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 their justification. ¹⁶ 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> ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸

Recent Congressional Action

FY'16

- February 2, 2015: President Obama proposes level funding UNFPA at \$35 million in his FY'16 budget request.
- June 3, 2015: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'16 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- June 11, 2015: House Appropriations Committee passes the FY'16 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- July 7, 2015: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'16 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- July 9, 2015: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'16 spending bill. Sen Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) offers an amendment restoring funds for the UNFPA program at \$35 million. The amendment passes 17-13.
- September 30, 2015: House and Senate pass a continuing resolution to fund the government through December 11, 2015. The bill funds the UNFPA program at \$35 million.
- September 30, 2015: President Obama signs the bill into law.¹⁹
- December 10, 2015: Senate passes another continuing resolution to fund the government through December 16, 2015.
- December 11, 2015: House passes another continuing resolution to fund the government through December 16, 2015.
- December 11, 2015: President Obama signs the bill into law.²⁰
- December 16, 2015: House and Senate pass another continuing resolution to fund the government through December 22, 2015.

- December 16, 2015: President Obama signs the bill into law.²¹
- December 18, 2015: House and Senate pass FY'16 omnibus spending bill. The bill funds UNFPA at \$32.5 million.
- December 18, 2015: President Obama signs the bill into law.²²

FY'17

- February 9, 2016: President Obama proposes \$35 million for UNFPA in his FY'17 budget request, a \$2.5 million increase.
- June 23, 2016: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'17 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- June 28, 2016: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations passes the FY'17 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- June 29, 2016: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'17 spending bill. Sen Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) offers an amendment increasing funds for the UNFPA program to \$37.5 million. The amendment passes 17-13.
- June 12, 2016: House Appropriations Committee passes the FY'17 spending bill. The bill eliminates all funding for UNFPA.
- September 28, 2015: House and Senate pass a continuing resolution to fund the government through December 9, 2015. The bill level-funds the UNFPA program at \$32.5 million.
- September 29, 2015: President Obama signs the bill into law.²³

January 1, 2017

Notes:

¹ UNFPA, "UNFPA and the United Nations System," at

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about/pid/4629> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

² UNFPA, "Frequently Asked Questions," at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/about/faqs> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

³ UNFPA, "UNFPA worldwide" at <http://unfpa.by/en/about/unfpa-worldwide/> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

⁴ UNFPA, "UNFPA worldwide" at <http://unfpa.by/en/about/unfpa-worldwide/> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

⁵ UNFPA, "About UNFPA," at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

⁶ UNFPA, "About UNFPA," at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

⁷ UNFPA, "About UNFPA," at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/about> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

⁸ UNFPA, "Responding to Sexual Violence in Darfur" at <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/sudan/> (last

visited Oct. 14, 2015); UNFPA, “Assisting in Emergencies,” at <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/rh.htm> (last visited Oct. 14, 2015); UNFPA, “Progress Profile: Haiti” at http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/gprhcs/GPRHCS_Haiti.pdf (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

⁹ 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 (last visited Oct. 14, 2015).

¹⁰ H.R.1555, 99th Cong. (1985).

¹¹ U.S. Agency for International Development, *Memorandum for Anthony Lake, The White House: Funding of UNFPA, IPPF, WHO/HRP* (July 15, 1993).

¹² H.R.4328, 105th Cong. (1998).

¹³ P.L.106-113, 106th Cong. (1999); *see also* H.R.3422, 106th Cong. (1999).

¹⁴ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Report of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Independent Assessment Team* (May 29, 2002).

¹⁵ Press Release, White House, *President Signs Foreign Operations Appropriations Act* (January 19, 2002).

¹⁶ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Report of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Independent Assessment Team* (May 29, 2002).

¹⁷ Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, *Report of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Independent Assessment Team* (May 29, 2002).

¹⁸ 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. 14, 2015).

¹⁹ P.L. 114-53, 114th Cong. (2015).

²⁰ P.L. 114-96, 114th Cong. (2015).

²¹ P.L. 114-100, 114th Cong. (2015).

²² P.L. 114-113, 114th Cong. (2015).

²³ H.R.5325, Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act, 114th Cong. (2017).