

UNFPA STATEMENT ON GHANA UPR OUTCOME REPORT

UNFPA commends the Government of Ghana on its UPR report which demonstrates that the Government is committed to ensuring that its citizens fully enjoy their fundamental human rights. Several recommendations were accepted in the area of domestic violence, gender equality and reinforcing programmes and public policies that address the needs of women, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities which is highly commendable.

The President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo at the launch of Ghana's Demographic Dividend strategic roadmap said and I quote **“the countries that have done well even without natural resources are the countries that have invested in education and skills training....It is people who build nations....It is Ghanaians, especially the youth of today who are going to build Ghana.”** UNFPA therefore welcomes the five strategic steps on health outlined in Ghana's DD strategic roadmap, which responds to recommendations made and accepted by the government. This includes “intensifying RH campaigns to increase family planning among sexually active people and the scaling up of educational campaigns to remove socio-cultural barriers against the provision of SRH services to sexually active adolescents and young people among others.

In partnership with relevant government agencies, UNFPA, other UN agencies, and civil society partners, a draft national CSE guidelines has been developed to enable the harmonization of information and education given to all young people, whether in or out of school. This will ensure that young people nationwide are provided with adequate and identical information to enable them to make informed choices regarding their sexual health.

UNFPA commends the Government of Ghana for its efforts to ensure that the content of the CSE guidelines is updated, standardized and scaled up to ensure that the Government's efforts at investing in young people produces the desired results. We are of the firm opinion that if a young person is healthy, has age-appropriate and culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education, reproductive health information that will prevent the occurrence of teenage pregnancy, able to access health services when sick and can make assertive decisions to maintain his or her dignity and human rights, such a young person will be in a better position to contribute to national development.

UNFPA will continue to work with the Government of Ghana to implement the recommendations to ensure that reliable data exists to inform domestic and gender based violence interventions and programming, and that communities receive appropriate information and education to enable them make informed SRH choices for themselves and their families towards the country's attainment of the SDGs and national development goals. We will thereby

be working to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.