

The United Nations Population Fund and Management of a Growing Global Population

By Madison Victor

Preparing to manage the rapidly growing global population is tough to grasp and with an estimated world population of 9 billion by 2050, progressive action must be created, implemented, and taught to future leaders of the world.



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a sector of the United Nations that approaches managing the world population by focusing on three areas: gender equality, population dynamics, and empowering women. UNFPA's work is geared toward a world population dynamic that includes an assurance that every pregnancy is wanted, all births are safe with appropriate medical care and HIV-free, and that every girl, woman, and child is treated with dignity and respect. With these goals in mind, the UNFPA has developed a program called Youth Zones-Voices from

Emergencies, designed to empower youth in crisis areas and to build an understanding of the needs of those directly affected by war, internal crises, and natural disasters.

The Youth Zones program gives voice to 14 million young adults who are otherwise unheard by the international community. Currently, Youth Zones works with young people from Colombia, Lebanon, Liberia, Uganda and the United States. The program emphasizes six areas: education, mental health, gender-based violence, family planning, HIV/AIDS, and livelihood. Each young participant has been through a unique struggle and Youth Zones gives them the opportunity to share their stories with the rest of the world. The chance to be heard is an important step toward understanding population dynamics and eliminating disparities.

Adolescent girls are the focus of UNFPA's sexual and reproductive health programs, because in many developing countries girls begin their sexual debut as early as age fourteen. Empowering females is pivotal to achieving healthy pregnancies, safe births, consensual sexual practices, and eliminating HIV. The UNFPA focuses on teaching young women maternal health, promoting secondary education for girls, eliminating gender attitudes and violence, and emphasizes the importance of a woman's social network. By empowering women, the UNFPA provides a platform for women to develop the skills necessary to keep themselves and their families healthy, hunger-free, and safe.

The UNFPA is invited by governments to aid in the development of effective policies that reduce poverty, encourage sustainable development, and empower women and youth. The core of the UNFPA is human rights and the government is required to acknowledge that all people are entitled to human rights. Although there is still a long road to travel, the UNFPA continues to work tirelessly to improve the conditions of the global population in hopes for a safe, healthy, and equal tomorrow.