

Annex 4

Global and Regional Interventions in 2014-2015

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Introduction

1. During 2014 and 2015, Global and Regional Interventions (GRI), promoted international norms and standards by providing policy advice and technical advisory support to governments and intergovernmental processes, and complemented country level interventions for programmes' cohesion at different levels. They also were instrumental in providing cross-regional programming solutions, including for humanitarian situations, and assisted country offices and programmes with integrated, innovative, operational and programmatic support.

2. The role of GRIs in achieving results of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017 was acknowledged as important in the Executive Board decision 2013/31. Accordingly, the Board authorized \$275 million of the projected regular resources as a ceiling for GRIs for the period 2014-2017. The Board also approved strategic framework for UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014-2017 (DP/FPA/2014/8) together with their results and resources frameworks (DP/FPA/2014/8/Add.1). The Board invited UNFPA to include in the annual report of the Executive Director an annex highlighting implementation progress of GRIs.¹

3. This annex presents the progress, challenges and selected results achieved by the GRIs per UNFPA strategic plan outcomes at the aggregated level for the period of 2014-2015. The report contains four sections. The introduction is followed by a section presenting the progress and achievements of the GRIs during 2014 and 2015; this is followed by the monitoring mechanisms put in place to track progress of implementation, as requested by the Board; and the last section highlights the proposed adjustments to the results and resources frameworks of the GRIs, following the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2014 2017.

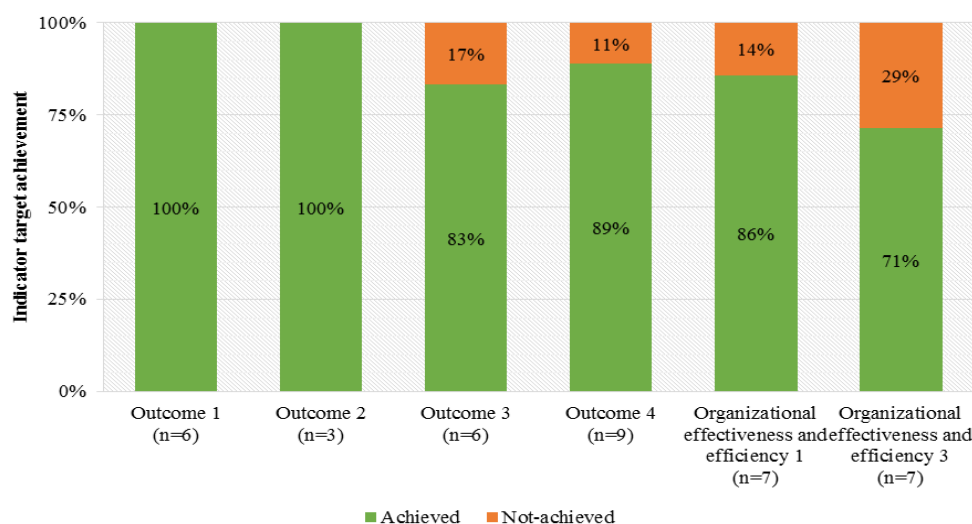
¹ Executive Board decision 2014/16

Progress and achievements of the GRIs

Global Interventions

4. Progress achieved by the global interventions is measured by 38 indicators (see chart 1).² Out of 38 indicators, targets for 33 indicators (87%) were achieved in 2014-2015, while targets for 5 indicators (13%) were not met.

Chart 1. Target achievement by global interventions, by strategic plan outcome 2014-2015



Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access

5. Key accomplishments during 2014-2015 driven by global interventions were to accelerate efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal targets 5a and 5b, and ensure that sexual reproductive health and rights, including rights of young people, are firmly integrated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. Complementary field support was provided with the development and roll-out of tools and guidance notes that included the provision of integrated SRH services and evidence-based policy dialogue, promotion of the rights-based approach to family planning, and integration of sexual reproductive health and rights and HIV services for key populations.

7. Progress was achieved through advocacy, policy dialogue, technical support and outreach initiatives, including support to key stakeholders during the Sustainable Development Agenda negotiations and through the United Nations Technical Support Team on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 “Good health and well-being”, which was co-led with the World Health Organization (WHO). Global interventions played a critical role in supporting the discussions of SDG indicators, particularly in the context of nine targets of SDG 3 by building on the collaboration with stakeholders, including bilateral agencies and civil society organizations.

8. The 2014 State of World Population report, “The Power of 1.8 billion: Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future” and the 2015 State of World Population report, “Shelter

² Progress on global interventions results and resources for 2014-2015 is available upon request.

from the Storm” raised global awareness and support for placing women and youth at the centre of efforts for sustainable development and humanitarian action.

9. Support was also intensified to ten high-burden countries of the sub-Saharan region to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and morbidity through UNFPA contribution to the H4+ partnership that includes UNAIDS, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Bank Group, and WHO.

Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services

10. Global interventions prioritized adolescents, especially very young girls, and the incorporation of their needs and rights in the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health, 2016-2030, which was launched by the United Nations Secretary General in September, 2015. Global interventions also engaged in advocacy leading to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Both results were achieved through the leadership of global interventions and fruitful partnership with United Nations agencies, civil society and youth organizations.

11. The support and engagement of six global and regional women’s and youth networks facilitated youth-led advocacy for comprehensive sexuality education and access to youth friendly services, including implementation of the operational guidance for comprehensive sexuality education. Countries received support to work with their partners to design and implement evidence-based programs targeting adolescent girls, especially those at risk of child marriage, within the UNFPA Action for Adolescent Girls initiative and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme on Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage.

Outcome 3: Advanced gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth

12. In advancing gender equality, reproductive rights and the empowerment of women and girls, global interventions, along with complementary support of regional interventions, strengthened capacities of ministries of health, national human rights institutions, and staff of UNFPA country offices to develop or implement national action plans on implementation of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations. Global interventions also supported national human rights institutions in conducting country assessments or national inquiries on sexual and reproductive health and rights in 27 countries, exceeding the target of 17.

13. Global support continued to mobilize key civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations, to promote SRH, gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights in the post-2015 development agenda. Emphasis was placed on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and faith-based organizations by setting up different platforms and forums to address gender equality and social accountability mechanisms.

14. Strong political support for the International Conference for Population and Development agenda by parliamentarians was maintained through high-level political consultations and discussions with the member States, heads of agencies and civil society organizations leading to strong outcomes at the 6th International Parliamentarians’ Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden in 2014 and at the G7 Parliamentarians’ Conference in Berlin, Germany in 2015.

15. The implementation of UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation was expanded to 17 countries in Africa and the Arab States regions. In 2014, the first-ever joint programme between UNFPA and UN-Women was rolled out to support the development,

dissemination and implementation of multi-sectoral essential services standards on gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation. Key programme results include the development and launch of global guidelines focusing on four sectors: health, police, justice and social services, and coordination and governance. Evidence-based advocacy and communication materials on gender-based violence were also developed, but the target was not reached because the country implementation of the Joint Programme on Violence against Women and Girls was postponed to start in 2016.

16. Global interventions continued to guide and play a leadership role in providing support to 19 crisis-affected countries in scaling-up or strengthening their gender-based violence coordination mechanisms, including the development of a set of Minimum Standards for Gender-based Violence in Emergencies to guide the gender-based violence programme management and inter-agency coordination. Unrelenting leadership was also provided in the area of engaging men and boys. These efforts emphasized the UNFPA leadership role in male involvement and ensured that issues around SRHR were included in the promotion of men's roles and responsibilities. However, institutionalizing this work remains a challenge as it is a long term process requiring sustained advocacy efforts.

Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

17. In 2014 and 2015, global interventions strengthened the capacity of countries in using population census data for estimation of maternal mortality, and played a key role in producing dashboards, country profiles and other data tools in the areas of adolescents and youth, female and genital mutilations, child marriage, universal access to reproductive health, and decomposition of future population growth. 16 analytical reports were issued, exceeding the target of 7, in the areas of demographic dividend, decomposition of population growth analysis, ageing, urbanization, environment and climate change, resource flow for family planning, and evidence-based policy dialogue and programming. These reports contributed to the reports of the Secretary General and defined the UNFPA position at global and regional events. Global interventions also supported the application of the population situation analysis and the development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Capacity of 23 countries was strengthened in the use of census data analysis and small area estimates to map demographic disparities and socioeconomic inequalities.

18. In 2014, global interventions led a global review of the implementation of Programme of Action of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) that was presented by the Secretary General at the 69th session of the General Assembly. The review demonstrated that the vision of the ICPD is as relevant today as it was in 1994. Through revitalized collaboration with the 'Friends of ICPD' group of countries and strengthened collaboration with the CSO-ICPD global network, a strong coalition around the ICPD agenda was built and consolidated, which worked to position the ICPD and UNFPA priorities within the post-2015 development agenda. This resulted in the preliminary adoption, as part of the SDG global indicator framework, of 13 indicators for ICPD-related SDG targets.

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency output 1: Enhanced programme effectiveness by improving quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation

19. Enhancing UNFPA programme effectiveness and efficiency was a priority area for global interventions. The Programme Review Committee (PRC) continued to play a critical role in improving the quality of country programme documents and action plans of the units implementing regional and global interventions. The PRC rated new country programme documents as being "satisfactory" 64% in 2014 and 84% in 2015, and provided feedback to country offices to further strengthen the quality of documents accordingly.

20. Through the International Aid Transparency Initiative, UNFPA continued to enhance reporting systems to better align to international purpose codes and support communication with development partners. It also continues to enhance the monitoring of humanitarian response and contribution to the SDGs through improving the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind.

21. The global interventions were instrumental in developing UNFPA flagship programme systems, namely the Global Programming System (GPS) and the Strategic Information System (SIS), which contribute to strengthening the UNFPA results-based culture. The launch of GPS in November 2014 was a giant leap forward for UNFPA in bringing together programme outputs and financial spending, and increasing the transparency of all work plans with implementing partners across UNFPA. The use of the Integrated Service Desk platform to provide timely support to country and regional offices on programme issues also helped to improve results-based programming, and it reached 93% satisfactory user rating on quality of support provided in 2014-2015.

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency output 3: Increased adaptability through innovation, partnership and communications

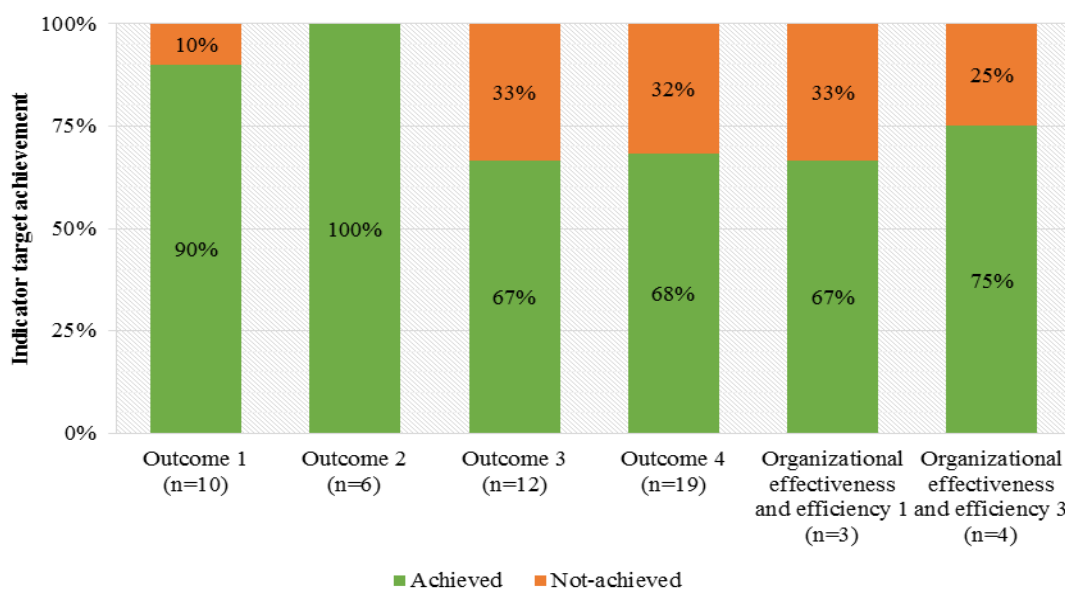
22. Organizational adaptability was improved through innovation and partnerships with special focus on communication in disaster-affected communities. All 25 high-priority countries and regional offices are currently using Communicating in Emergencies Guidelines developed by global interventions.

23. The use of social media and diverse communication channels increased UNFPA visibility with 6,684 mentions of UNFPA in media in 2015. The UNFPA Facebook following exceeded the 270,000 mark, but still beneath the target of 360,000 followers. Trends and tendencies in social media metrics highly depend on changes introduced by the company that owns the platform. In this case the cut of volume for organic and non-paid reach introduced by Facebook made it impossible to reach the initial target, which will be revised as part of the strategic plan midterm review.

Regional Interventions

24. Progress by regional interventions was assessed through 54 indicators (see chart 2).³ Overall, 41 targets (76%) were met; the remaining 13 indicators (24%) did not meet the expected 2014-2015 targets.

Chart 2. Targets achievement by regional interventions, by strategic plan outcome 2014-2015



Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access

25. In 2014-2015, regional interventions emphasized integration of sexual and reproductive health services. The Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean regions enhanced the capacities of 66 countries by equipping them with guidelines and standards for the delivery of quality reproductive health services for women and adolescents. Continued partnerships with the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) leveraged support in accelerating efforts to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality, and address inequality in access to services.

26. The utilization of a methodology on costing national sexual and reproductive health action plans and programmes was supported in 31 countries, exceeding the initial target despite challenges such as the ongoing crisis in Yemen and changed priorities in some Latin American countries. Strengthening the delivery systems to ensure a secure, steady and reliable supply of reproductive health commodities through improved logistics management information systems was a focus of regional interventions in the East and Southern Africa subregion.

27. In order to assess the state of maternal mortality and neonatal surveillance systems in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and generate recommendations on policies and programs for strengthening them at the country level, UNFPA and the Neonatal Alliance carried out a survey on maternal and neonatal mortality surveillance systems. In the East and Southern Africa

³ Progress on regional interventions results and resources for 2014-2015 is available upon request.

subregion, countries were provided with the monitoring framework for national maternal mortality surveillance systems but funding constraints were the primary reasons of not reaching the initial target of 28 countries by the regional interventions in this area.

28. The Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region continued to empower community-based sex worker-led organizations to deliver HIV programmes and strengthen capacity of member-organizations of Sex Workers Advocacy Network (SWAN). It also became a credible co-convenor of HIV and key populations committees, including in advisory capacities to Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS, East Europe and Central Asia Union of People Living with HIV, Sex Workers Rights Advocacy Network, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health and Eurasian Harm Reduction Network.

29. Regional interventions continued emphasizing preparedness and capacity strengthening for responding to humanitarian crisis. The regional interventions managed by the regional offices for Latin America and the Caribbean, Western and Central Africa, and Asia and the Pacific enhanced 47 countries' capacity to implement the minimum initial service package at the onset of a crisis.

Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services

30. Regional interventions prioritized the empowerment of young people to participate in decisions affecting them, and strengthened their ability to advance human rights and development issues such as health and education. The Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean regions facilitated the establishment of youth participatory platforms to galvanize advocacy efforts for increased investments in youth in the context of ICPD Beyond-2014 and Post-2015 development agenda. This resulted in the development of different action plans on youth issues within the framework of implementation of SDGs. The "Youth Voice Campaign" kicked off by EECA regional intervention in 2014 was implemented in 16 countries by 2015.

31. To promote sexuality education programme and curriculum's alignment to international standards, the East and Southern Africa and the Latin America and the Caribbean regional interventions supported countries through policy dialogue to review existing curriculum, institutionalize teachers' training and develop the essential package of resource materials for out of school young people. However, opposition in some countries and existing misconception about sexuality education are the obstacles that regional interventions face to smoothly achieve the intended results. EECA regional interventions through South-South cooperation strengthened its ties with the Arab States regional office, Performing Arts for Action in the area of theatre-based peer education for marginalized adolescents and youth, whereas Ukraine and Bosnia-Herzegovina gained and shared their experience on sexuality education, on the subject of teachers' training and curriculum development during the European exchange meeting.

32. Girls' rights were strengthened by support of West and Central Africa regional interventions of eight countries that are part of the joint programme on female genital mutilation. Exploring possibilities of engaging with non-traditional donors and partners by EECA regional interventions resulted in ten new initiatives with the private sector, which was twice more than planned.

Outcome 3: Advance gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth

33. To address gender-based violence and harmful practices, Western and Central Africa regional interventions enhanced the capacity of national institutions and civil society organizations of 17 countries on integrating and addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence issues in the periodic national reports submitted to the

specialized United Nations treaty bodies such as the Commission on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Universal Periodic Review, among others. Although the overall target of 37 countries was not fully achieved due to reduced funding, 27 countries were provided with tools and guidance on the follow-up of recommendations and obligations on reproductive rights through the reporting system. In line with objectives of the regional interventions to integrate gender-based violence prevention, protection and response into national sexual and reproductive health programmes, the Arab States, East and Southern Africa and Western and Central Africa regional offices developed different protocols and tools, set up platforms for civil society organizations and governments to engage men and boys in elimination of female genital mutilation, and strengthened the role of religious leaders and traditional chiefs in promoting gender equality.

34. Multisectoral response to gender-based violence was integrated in new programme cycles of 10 countries with EECA regional interventions support, and promoted through a regional survey and development of a referral package. A special project in seven Latin American countries on the 'Prevention of Violence against Women' completed its five-year regional plan by defining the best practices in preventing violence against women in Central America. In 2014, Western and Central Africa regional interventions initiated a series of discussions with the African Union on the identification of best advocacy approaches on gender equality for policy makers and stakeholders to engage men and boys, which reached 17 countries in 2015.

35. Given the high demand for technical assistance for data collection on violence against women and girls and the low capacity to conduct such surveys, Asia and the Pacific regional interventions provided technical advice to selected countries on conducting national violence against women prevalence surveys and carrying out secondary data analysis of the domestic violence module in Demographic Health Survey. Despite the Asia and the Pacific regional office's proactive role in providing support, the overall target was not met because it was overly ambitious. This will be revised during the midterm review of the strategic plan.

Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

36. The Latin America and the Caribbean regional office developed an innovative geo-referenced application for phones, tablets or computers for identifying and processing population data for disaster preparedness and response. This will better equip countries to gather, process and consolidate sociodemographic data in humanitarian settings and fragile contexts. In partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean both, the Latin America and the Caribbean and East and Southern Africa regional interventions supported countries in using Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer based integrated management information systems to access socio-economic and demographic datasets, including enhancement of national capacity in analysing these data.

37. The Western and Central Africa regional interventions strengthened inter-agency collaboration with the World Bank to create the pre-conditions for a demographic dividend by addressing fertility levels, population growth and gender equality in 2014 and enhanced capacity of countries and institutions by equipping them with different tools (such as the model of National Transfer Account) to address demographic dividend in 2015. The Arab States regional interventions advocated countries in conducting the Pan Arab Family Health Survey (PAPFAM) and provided support in integrating issues of maternal mortality and fistula in selected countries.

38. The EECA regional office supported six countries in using CensusInfo, PCAxis and other platforms for on-line dissemination of census data despite availability of no resources for this area. The Arab States regional office supported 14 countries on use of technology in conducting population and housing censuses to improve capacities. To better equip countries and partners to

advocate for incorporating population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health, HIV and gender equality and their linkages to sustainable development, the Asia and the Pacific regional interventions prepared policy briefs as advocacy tools for key regional and global events such as Commission on Population and Development, World Humanitarian Summit Sub-regional Consultation for the Pacific and for South and Central Asia, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians, and the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

39. Although reduced funding impacted the achievement of overall target of 49 countries by regional interventions, the East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, EECA and Western and Central Africa regional interventions supported 31 countries in implementing population situation analysis to identify priorities and formulate policies and programmes.

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency output 1: Enhanced programme effectiveness by improving quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation

40. Regional interventions enhanced programme effectiveness and efficiency by providing support to country offices. Country offices rated the relevance, quality and timeliness of this support in 2015, with EECA regional intervention receiving 100% and APRO 73%.

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency output 3: Increased adaptability through innovation, partnership and communications

41. With support from regional interventions, 17 partnerships with the private sector were set up in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions in 2014-2015. To advance the ICPD agenda, partnerships were created with strategic institutions and alliances such as the Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), World Bank, The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), Centre de Recherche en Economie et Finance appliquées de Thiès (CREFAT) and the Mano River Union.

42. The number of UNFPA followers in the Arab States and the Asia and the Pacific regional Facebook accounts reached 10,268, but Asia and the Pacific website visitors decreased from 49,656 in 2012 to 25,147 during 2014-2015. The EECA regional interventions increased UNFPA visibility by implementing communication strategies that resulted in 105,572 website viewers and 1,392 Facebook followers.

Monitoring and oversight

43. GRIs resource allocation for 2016 will adhere to the initial Regular Resource Distribution Plan for 2016 based on the contribution payment estimates. The GRI will receive \$52.72 million, a reduction of \$15.55 million from the originally planned 2016 allocation approved in Executive Board decision 2013/31. Both 2016 and future year ceilings are subject to change every year as the income situation and business requirements evolve.

44. The implementation and monitoring of the global and regional interventions follow the UNFPA programme policy framework, and are managed through detailed work plans that were captured by the new UNFPA Global Programming System (GPS) since January 2015. In addition to regular monitoring, individual units submitted quarterly progress reports, which were centrally consolidated and presented to the Executive Committee, demonstrating how action plans were progressing and providing an opportunity to discuss emerging issues. This approach enabled the Executive Committee to meet its oversight function to ensure that corrective actions were taken and implemented effectively. For example, due to regular resources cuts, the Executive Committee made timely decisions introducing adjustments to ceilings.

45. UNFPA notes with appreciation the feed-back on the progress noted in the follow-up review audit of the Global and Regional Programme (GRP). UNFPA has taken steps to enhance programme design, execution, and programme monitoring and reporting of the GRIs and continues to do so. In particular, UNFPA will subject the GRI to the regular quality assurance reviews for programme monitoring systems that was introduced in 2015. Results from this exercise will identify remaining gaps and inform further improvement efforts

Midterm review adjustments

46. A midterm review of the GRIs with all concerned units, as well as changes to the IRF (as part of the strategic plan midterm review process), has resulted in slightly revised results and resources frameworks for the GRIs. This includes improved quality of indicators, revision of some targets based on progress and trends, and introduction of additional indicators to better reflect the work and assistance provided by the GRIs in humanitarian action [both for global and regional interventions] for 2016-2017. The revised results and resources framework for the GRI will be updated and finalised upon approval of the revised integrated results framework of the strategic plan. UNFPA also undertook a review of global and regional interventions costs to identify any residual management costs (see DP/FPA/2016/3 for details on this).
