



# NEWSLETTER-EQUATORIAL GUINEA

January - July 2021



**Visit of UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem to the Equatorial Guinea Country Office Staff, during the African Union Humanitarian Summit in Malabo, May 2022**

## Message from Hind JALAL, Equatorial Guinea Resident Representative

I am pleased to introduce UNFPA Equatorial Guinea first half-yearly 2022 Newsletter, which marks our first six months of implementing of the fourth year of our 7<sup>th</sup> Country Programme 2019-2023. This newsletter focuses on our journey with partners to accelerate the three transformative results: zero unmet need for family planning; zero preventable maternal deaths; and zero gender-based violence. Key highlights in this newsletter include major activities carried out by the CO.

Following my arrival in Equatorial Guinea, I was honored to present my Letters of Credence on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to H.E. Mr. Simeon OYONO ESONO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as new Resident Representative of UNFPA Office. I committed to support the Government in achieving the Goals set in its Economic and Social Development Plan-PNDES 2035 through our Country Program Document 2019-2023 and above all, to achieve the 3 transformative outcomes in Equatorial Guinea.

Earlier this year, the CO organized International Women's Day celebrations, on March 8<sup>th</sup> under the theme "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". Under the leadership of Mrs Anna Pont, the Resident Coordinator, all UN System personnel gathered to assess key achievements/challenges in gender equality and women empowerment.

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea was pleased to welcome the UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem for a visit to the region in May 25-27. The visit was at the invitation of the African Union for an extraordinary humanitarian summit. The ED's address to the African Union Heads of State and Government was the highlight of the mission. The Executive Director met and interacted with the staff team in the Equatorial Guinea Country Office. Dr Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director for Programme, Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director and Director of the UNFPA Liaison Office to the AU, and Mrs Argentina Matavel, West and Central Africa Regional Office Director accompanied the ED.

In June 2022, the CO and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality organized a workshop to validate the Study on Gender Violence in Equatorial Guinea.



The research aims to assess the situation of Gender based Violence in the country, collect information on cases of violence registered through the provincial structures, as well as the type of assistance provided in the 8 provinces of the Country.

In July, a national HIV/AIDS/STI awareness campaign targeting key populations was carried out in the cities of Malabo, Bata, Ebibeyin and Mongomo. 289 people from the key population group have been sensitized, of which 38 male and 251 female; and a total of 23,040 condoms and different IEC material have been distributed.

The July 11<sup>th</sup> celebrations of World Population Day 2022, were organized together with Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning, with the participation of representatives of the Government, the Diplomatic community, UN Sister Agencies, the Private Sector, academia and NGOs. The celebrations included several sensitization, artistic and sport activities, as well as, awareness talks.

I look forward to build on these efforts and to work closely with partners to help transform the lives of women and young people in Equatorial Guinea while expressing my deepest gratitude to all our partners for their support to UNFPA to leave no one behind, to reach the furthest behind first.

At UNFPA, we use population data to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA helps countries find proactive and transformative pathways to thrive in a world of rapid demographic change.

## UNFPA Equatorial Guinea celebrates International Women's Day, March 8, 2022



Photo credit/ UNFPA-EQG/Flora Obama: *facade of the UN building with UN employees Equatorial Guinea*

**Malabo, 8 Mars 2022.** On the occasion of the celebration of Internatioanl Women’s Day, “March 8” and under the theme "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" the staff of the United Nations System in Equatorial Guinea composed of the following agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, FAO, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UNDSS and UNESCO, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator gathered to assess achievements and challenges.

A conference on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Peace was organized at the UN auditorium. The conference was facilitated by Ms. Sylvia Ghaly, Senior Advisor on Human Rights and Gender from the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO) with the collaboration of Ms Flora Isabel Obama Mokuy, Gender Program Officer at UNFPA. They addressed the following issues:

- The importance and origin of the celebration of International Women's Day (8 March).
- The challenges and difficulties of women to achieve gender equality.
- The difference between gender and sex.
- The problems faced by Women on Peaceand Security in the world (**Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**).
- The activities on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment promoted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality at the country level with the support of **UNFPA**, such is the case of the elaboration of the **Family Code and in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; the Draft Bill on the Integral Protection to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Draft Bill regulating Traditional Marriage in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (pending approval)**.



## UNFPA Executive Director to address Extraordinary AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and call attention to needs and rights of women and girls



Photo credit/ UNFPA-EQG/Flora Obama

**Malabo, Equatorial Guinea: 25 May 2022** – The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr. Natalia Kanem has arrived in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to attend the Extraordinary African Union (AU) Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference taking place from 25 to 27 May 2022.

The Extraordinary AU Humanitarian Summit will address Africa's current humanitarian challenges, exacerbated by the socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflicts and disasters across the continent. UNFPA Executive Director Kanem, on 27 May 2022, joins Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, and other top-ranking UN officials to address the Heads of State and Government, high-level government officials and ministers at the Extraordinary Summit in Malabo.

Dr. Natalia Kanem will take the opportunity alongside other international development and humanitarian partners to commit support to the expected new AU Humanitarian Agency. *“Africa faces daunting humanitarian crises with millions of lives at stake,”* said Kanem. *“Let us invest in humanitarian response, peace and sustainable development and prioritize the needs and rights of women and girls to unleash greater progress.”*

On the margins of the Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, UNFPA, together with other UN agencies, is co-hosting side events to explore innovative solutions to existing and emerging health and humanitarian challenges on the continent. These side-events will provide opportunities to reflect on pertinent issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing humanitarian needs, climate change, violent conflicts, poverty, food insecurity and political instability that are causing rising suffering, death and displacement.

## UNFPA participates in the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Obstetric Fistula Repair Campaign



Photo credit /UNFPA-EQG/: Delivery of fistula material- Bata

**Bata, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.** Within the framework of the project "Improving Access and Quality of Prenatal Care and Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care in Equatorial Guinea", a total of 2 fistula repair kits, patient clothes, rubber bands, surgical drapes, surgical caps and spinal needles for anesthesia. They were delivered last Tuesday 07 June 2022 by the UNFPA Reproductive Health Programme Officer to the Vice-Minister of Health and Social Welfare, H.E. Mr. Mitoha Ondo Ayecaba; to support the implementation of the Third National Obstetric Fistula Repair Campaign, organized between the Federation of Religious for Health (FRS) and the Reproductive Health Programme of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The campaign will last for 30 days.



Photo credit /UNFPA-EQG/: Health Care Workers - Bata



## UNFPA Equatorial Guinea and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality organized a workshop to validate the Study on Gender Violence in Equatorial Guinea



Photo credit / UNFPA-EQG/Flora: Minister of Gender Equality with the UNS Coordinator, Government representatives, members of NGOs and UNS agencies

**Malabo, June 20, 2022.** Within the framework of the implementation of the Seventh Program of Assistance of the United Nations Population Fund to the Government of Equatorial Guinea 2019-2023, UNFPA committed to strengthen national capacities to promote gender equality and empower women and girls to exercise their reproductive rights and protect themselves from gender-based violence and harmful practices.

In this respect, UNFPA carried out a research study to assess the situation of Gender Violence in the country, identify the factors that favor gender violence, collect information on cases of violence registered through the provincial structures involved, identify the type of violence that survivors have suffered, as well as the type of assistance or support they have received in the 8 provinces of the Country.

On June 20, 2022, the presentation and validation of the results of the "Study on Gender Violence in Equatorial Guinea" was held at the Colinas Hotel in Malabo. 40 persons attended the workshop, representing different Government departments, Civil Society organizations, the Resident Coordinator and UN sister agencies. The main objective of the session was to review, update and validate the "Study on Gender Violence in Equatorial Guinea". A thorough analysis of the content, form and the results was conducted with the purpose of obtaining a well-consolidated final document that can be of reference for the Ministry on the updating of data on violence and that will serve the Government to plan public policies to address GVB.

During the event, the consultants presented an overview of the data collection in the field, which was carried out on the basis of two questionnaires: 1) for survivors and 2) for institutions and NGOs. They also made field visits to the following structures: Women's Associations, GBV survivors, NGOs, Hospitals, Police, Family Courts, Gendarmerie and other government departments involved in the issue in the 8 provinces: Bioko-Norte, Bioko-Sur, Annobón, Litoral, Wele-Nzás, Centro-Sul, Kie-Ntem and Djibloho. The event concluded with the endorsement and adoption of the amendments and proposals made by the participants on the document and their subsequent incorporation to the final document.

## UNFPA Equatorial Guinea together with the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning launched World Population Day, 2022 Celebrations



Photo credit /UNFPA-EQG/Flora: Opening Ceremony World Population Day 2022

**Malabo, July 11, 2022.** Equatorial Guinea celebrated during the week of 11-17 July, the World Population Day 2022 with the key theme "*A world of 8 billion people: towards a resilient future, seize opportunities and ensure the rights and freedom of choice of all people*". On Monday July 11, the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning, represented by H.E. Mrs. Bindang Ndong Okiri, Secretary of State officially chaired the launching ceremony at Hotel Colinas in the city of Malabo. Mrs. Anna Marttinen Pont, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, read the Message sent by the Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres, in the presence of representatives of the Government, the Diplomatic community, United Nations Sister Agencies, the Private Sector, academia and NGOs.

The celebrations included several sensitization, artistic and sport activities carried out by the NGOs BIRIAELAT, ADICGE, AFRICAHUNA, BOCAMANDJA with the performance of 3 plays on the themes "A new world", "Towards an equitable society", "Youth, breaking barriers" and awareness talks on population growth, entrepreneurship and the importance of job creation. These activities took place at the Guinean Cultural Center with the participation of young people, adolescents of both sexes, as well as people from different social backgrounds.

The youth NGOs SKILZ ON THE STREET and BARBARIO carried out various activities to raise awareness about HIV-STI prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health reaching 250 adolescents and young people on the seafront of Malabo. Activities included: Ball games or find the ball (symbolizing the identification of all sexually transmitted diseases and how to detect how they manifest themselves in the person through the look) ; Demonstrations with scooters and street dance by the EGafrodansg group, the risk field (reflects existing dangers in the society that are detrimental to sexual health in adolescents and young people); and listen to each other (it's the Gender stadium, communication between couples and families).

This event ended the program of activities on the occasion of July 11, World Population Day.

## Presentation of Credentials Letters of the New UNFPA Resident Representative in Equatorial Guinea



Photo credit /UNFPA-EQG/Flora: Audience of the New Representative of UNFPA with H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs Malabo July 20, 2022. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation took place the ceremony of delivery of the Letters of Credence of Ms. Hind JALAL, new Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund Office in Equatorial Guinea to H.E. Mr. Simeon OYONO ESONO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. During the meeting, the Minister highlighted the good relations that the Government maintains with UNFPA and the important role that the agency plays in the country on the issues of Reproductive Health, Gender Equality, youth and adolescents. She concluded by saying that the Ministry is committed to support the Representative in achieving its objectives and that its doors are open for any questions that the Ministry may have.

He also introduced Ms. Hind's work team to whom she can consult or contact for any activity.

For her part, the UNFPA Representative thanked the Honorable Minister for having granted her this audience and showed her availability to support the Government in achieving the Goals set in its Economic and Social Development Plan-PNDES 2035 through the CPD-Country Program Document 2019-2023. Above all, to achieve the 3 transformative outcomes in Equatorial Guinea: End Unavoidable Maternal Deaths; Unmet Need for Family Planning and Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices.

Ms. Hind brings extensive experience across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in technical and managerial positions in North, West and Central Africa with the UN System and Government.

Prior to Equatorial Guinea, she was ai representative for UN Women Cameroon since November 2018, where she repositioned the office as a key player in gender equality and women's empowerment. She previously worked for the UNFPA West and Central Africa Office and the UNFPA Morocco office, achieving significant results to promote reproductive health and rights. She authored and co-author of books and articles specializing in Gender and Taxation, Feminist Economics and demographic dividend.



## UNFPA Equatorial Guinea, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and NGOs carried out the "National Campaign on STIs/HIV/AIDS targeting key populations



Photo credit/UNFPA-EQG: UNFPA-MINSABS coordination team. NGOs in front, and some key population leaders

**Malabo, Bata, Ebibeyin and Mongomo 19-31 July, 2022.** UNFPA Equatorial Guinea, within the framework of its mandate in the fight against HIV/AIDS, approaches the fight against HIV from three fundamental strategies, namely the promotion of human rights and the reduction of inequalities; the integration of the HIV response in sexual and reproductive health services; and the prevention of sexual transmission of HIV.

In 2021, a national survey on LGBTI realities, sex workers and prisoners was conducted in the cities of Malabo, Bata, Ebibeyin and Mongomo - Equatorial Guinea, where a total of 400 people who share social conditions that place them at "risk of risk" of HIV / AIDS / STIs were interviewed. More than half of the cases were young people between 15 and 25 years of age, 30% of whom were male and 70% female.

In view of the problems faced by this group, as well as the various barriers to the realization of their sexual and reproductive rights, UNFPA has prioritized in its UBRAFGNQ76 annual work plan (AWP) 2022 a national campaign of information, awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs. The promotion of condom use, the exercise of human rights and a better quality of life for this population group have been prioritized as well.

Key populations are important to the dynamics of HIV transmission and are essential partners for an effective response to the epidemic. The national HIV/AIDS/STI awareness campaign targeting key populations has been conducted from **July 19-31, 2022**, in the cities (provincial capitals) of **Malabo, Bata, Ebibeyin and Mongomo** respectively.

A total of **289** people from the key population group have been sensitized, out of which **38 were male and 251 were female**; and a total of **23,040 condoms and different IEC material** have been distributed during the HIV/AIDS/STI awareness sessions. It has been noted that stigmatization and discrimination against same-sex relationships, sex work, including in the health sector, prevent key populations from accessing HIV prevention services. In all the sites visited, attendees emphasized that criminalization and stigmatization of same-sex relationships and sex work, as well as discrimination, including in the health sector, prevent key populations from accessing HIV prevention services. Effective government support and HIV Prevention and Treatment Partners provide tailored services for each group. However, they are currently too few and far between to achieve a significant decrease in new infections.

UNFPA, for a world in which all pregnancies are wanted, all births are safe and the potential of all young people is realized.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



**UNFPA Guinea Ecuatorial** @UNFPA\_EQGuinea · May 24

UNFPA-WCARO Regional Director Ms. Argentina Matavel visited the UNFPA Malabo office during her participation in the African Union Summit [#AUHU2022](#) [#HumanitarianSummit](#) [#PutYoungPeopleFirst](#) [#AUHumanitarianSummit](#) in Equatorial Guinea.



UNFPA WCARO



**UNFPA Guinea Ecuatorial** @UNFPA\_EQGuinea · Jul 15

[#8BillionStrong](#) [#WorldPopulationDay](#) SKILZ ON THE STREET of the NGO Biriaelat raising awareness through ball games, demonstrations with scooters and street dance about STD-HIV prevention and sexual health to young people and adolescents on the seafont of Malabo.



UNFPA WCARO and ONU Guinea Ecuatorial







**UNFPA Guinea Ecuatorial** @UNFPA\_EQGuinea · Jul 18

The new Resident Representative @UNFPA\_EQGuinea Ms. Hind JALAL today chaired her first staff meeting after her appointment, to schedule, coordinate and guide the implementation of the office's Plan to achieve the #3Zeros, the 3 transformative outcomes.



UNFPA WCARO and 3 others

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**Hind Jalal** @Hindjala7 · Jul 20

Today, I was honored to present my Letters of Credence as new @UNFPA\_EQGuinea Representative to H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of #EquatorialGuinea, Mr Simeon OYONO ANGUE. I look forward to continued partnership in support of the country's priorities thru our CPD 2019-2023



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**UNFPA Guinea Ecuatorial** @UNFPA\_EQGuinea · Jul 21

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Reunión de contacto de la RR del @UNFPA\_EQGuinea Sra. Hind JALAL con el presidente de Chevron Sr. L. Gene Kornegay para abordar sobre la presentación de los logros del Proyecto RMMNN y la relación de cooperación triangular entre Gobierno, @UNFPA y @Chevron

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**Hind Jalal** @Hindjalal7 · Jul 27

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Thanks to our RC @AnnaPont\_UN, I had the opportunity to present UNFPA interventions in Equatorial Guinea to the Diplomatic Community. I shared our current work in terms of activities implemented, donors, objectives, beneficiaries, main achievements, IPs and SDGs addressed.



You and UNFPA WCARO

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**UNFPA Guinea Ecuatorial** @UNFPA\_EQGuinea · Aug 1

The Representative of @UNFPA\_EQGuinea Ms. Hind JALAL participates to the closing ceremony of the workshop on the development of the Roadmap for intervention of #GBV cases, chaired by H.E. Minister of Social Affairs and Gender Equality M<sup>a</sup> Consuelo Nguema.



Chevron and 4 others

8 14



**Hind Jalal** @Hindjalal7 · Aug 1

Africa's Women's Day, observed annually on July 31, was celebrated yesterday in Equatorial Guinea (holly mass), under the leadership of Mrs Teresa Efua Asangono, President of the Senate to reaffirm the role of women in advancing the sustainable development agenda.

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