

Summary of UAP Partnership Principles

The **Universal Access Project** (UAP) serves as a coordination and pooled-funding mechanism for a diverse set of donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on behalf of international reproductive health and family planning (IRH/FP). The principles summarized below are based on input from UAP partners and external experts, and informed by a review of related documents. They focus on the relationships between UAP staff and our partners, as well as between the partners themselves, and on ways to help make these connections increasingly constructive and effective.

Shared Vision

UAP partners operate on the basis of a shared vision to empower girls and women through improved access to IRH/FP services and information, a goal first outlined in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, and reaffirmed by the Sustainable Development Goals on health and gender equality. Our vision is grounded in these high-level goals, and underpinned by a desire to support a more coherent and collaborative effort among the IRH/FP advocacy community within this broader global context. Participation in UAP is on the basis of agreement with this common vision and the compatibility of individual NGO missions with the fulfillment of these key goals.

Accountability and Transparency

UAP recognizes the complex dynamics created by funder-grantee relationships, and by a range of stakeholders with diverse strategies working in a shared advocacy space. Accountability in this context requires a formal commitment to transparency through sharing critical information and plans, with the understanding that sensitive information may be kept confidential. Likewise, the UAP team aims to be forthcoming about our own plans and information that may be of use to partners, and to clearly distinguish when we act of our own accord or on behalf of the broader effort.

Effective Communication

Communication among the UAP partners should be intentional, open, and clear in order to promote synergy and prevent duplication. We encourage an environment that acknowledges achievements, but that also tolerates questions, and values learning from mistakes as well as collective problem solving of common challenges. All partners should be committed to proactively share information that advances the project's goals.

Authentic Collaboration

A prerequisite to UAP partnership is an authentic willingness to promote more effective advocacy and help bridge barriers within the IRH/FP community. Mutual support and collaborative approaches are essential to fully leverage UAP partner diversity, expertise and innovation from veteran advocates as well as newer partners. UAP works to help create these connections based on shared interests and opportunities, as well as to constructively address issues that may limit cooperation.