

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Prevention and response to SGBV in humanitarian settings



Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a human right and an essential component of the overall health and protection package in a humanitarian response. Providing comprehensive, high-quality SRH services in humanitarian settings requires a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to reach women and girls, particularly survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

SGBV is too often the norm in humanitarian settings. Survivors can be women, men, adolescents, people with disabilities, young children, people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expression or sex characteristics, ethnic and religious minorities, and sex workers, among others. These groups are often undeserved in an emergency. There is a need to support these groups specifically, by incorporating inclusive measures into SRH practice and research.

IPPF: A global humanitarian organisation

IPPF is a world-leading SRH service provider, and IPPF Member Association (MA) clinics serve as the first place of contact for those who are impacted by SGBV, including intimate partner violence, whether in conflict, emergency situations or peacetime.

Our humanitarian work is anchored in the globally recognised Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), a priority of which is to prevent sexual violence and respond to the needs of survivors.

Prevention and response to survivors of sexual violence is a core component of the IPPF Humanitarian Strategy (2018-2022). Our institutional commitment to provide comprehensive SGBV care is also reflected in IPPF's Gender Equality Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Our commitment to gender equality

Gender equality cannot be realised without access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. IPPF knows that health services are often the first - and sometimes, the only - point of contact for survivors seeking assistance for SGBV. Survivors face psychological trauma compounded by the risk of contracting HIV, STI's, unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion and complications of childbirth.

From the earliest stages of an emergency, IPPF MAs, who are based within local communities, work to prevent violence and provide clinical care for SGBV survivors, using gender-responsive principles. Our humanitarian work is also focused on preparedness, ensuring MAs have the necessary capacity to provide life-saving SRH care in the aftermath of a disaster.



IPPF commitments to SGBV in humanitarian settings

- Member Associations (MAs) are first responders of integrated SGBV prevention and response in humanitarian response work. IPPF commits to scale-up capacity of MAs to deliver integrated and life-saving SRH, including SGBV prevention and response, in emergencies.
- IPPF commits to support its MAs to build on and accelerate partnerships at the national, regional and global levels to ensure sexual and reproductive health care services are part of SGBV prevention and response.

Partnerships for survivor centred SGBV prevention and response

IPPF's Member Association in Colombia, Profamilia, is the largest NGO provider of contraceptives and abortion services in the country, and has been actively responding to crises for five decades. Due to their extensive network of health facilities, community acceptance and long-established partnerships with national actors, Profamilia is uniquely positioned to lead the coordination of the SRHR in an emergency.

Profamilia is also working with national and international partners to improve coordination among SRHR, GBV and HIV service providers in joint campaigns to prevent SGBV and to communicate the importance of health services after a sexual assault.

At the global level, IPPF is a steering committee member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG). We partner with a variety of humanitarian agencies. We are core members of the The Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) and accelerate engagement through commitments to Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

Our expertise in action

IPPF ensures the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Emergencies is implemented at the onset of humanitarian crises. This internationally recognised standard is guided by six objectives:

IPPF's approach to addressing SGBV in humanitarian settings

- Ensure that SGBV responses adhere to internationally accepted principles of care, safety, confidentiality, respect and non-discrimination
- Put the safety and human rights, namely rights to privacy, confidentiality, non-discrimination and stigma of SGBV survivors at the centre
- Ensure a survivor and human rights-centered approach to provision of quality clinical care, including referrals
- Implement Objective 2 of the MISP: *prevent sexual violence and respond to the needs of survivors*
- Coordinate with protection and health care providers to establish effective referral networks for survivors
- Support health care providers to reduce the risks they are exposed to in providing care to survivors
- Engage volunteer networks, including youth, to raise community awareness on SGBV protection issues and where and how to access services
- Engage locally lead, community-based teams, including groups representing sexual and gender minorities and organisations working with persons living with disabilities.

MINIMUM INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (MISP for SRH)

PREVENT MORTALITY, MORBIDITY AND DISABILITY IN CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATIONS

1 Ensure the health cluster identifies an organisation to lead the MISP for SRH

2 Prevent sexual violence and respond to the needs of survivors

3 Prevent and reduce morbidity and mortality due to HIV and other STIs

4 Prevent excess maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality

5 Prevent unintended pregnancies

6 Plan for comprehensive SRH services integrated into primary health care as soon as possible

NOTE Ensure that safe abortion care is available, to the full extent of the law, in health centres and hospitals.



About IPPF Humanitarian

IPPF delivers SRHR information and services in 166 countries around the world, and fights for everyone to exercise their right to make informed choices. IPPF is a locally-owned, globally connected civil society movement. We meet need, wherever it is, whoever requires it, for as long as they want it. Our localised approach ensures we work across the entire disaster management cycle, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

We are committed to building humanitarian capacity across all 160 IPPF Member Associations and collaborative partners in accordance with our Strategic Framework. In early 2017, we established a global Humanitarian Hub in Bangkok, Thailand and a Sub-Hub in Suva, Fiji with high level leadership and technical capacities connected to humanitarian networks, preparedness and response mechanisms.

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