

Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region

Preparedness: Strengthening midwifery services in Afghanistan

Years of instability and conflict have significantly contributed to Afghanistan's high maternal mortality rate. Over 6.25 million people need immediate and long-term humanitarian assistance. UNFPA has responded by strengthening midwifery services, providing training and forming mobile health teams to increase the number of trained birth attendants operating in fragile settings. Directors of the Afghanistan Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) in all 34 provinces have been trained to better integrate SRH and GBV in district-level preparedness and response plans.

Preparedness: Scaling up crucial MISP training in Iran

UNFPA is working with the Ministry of Health and the Iranian Red Crescent Society to include reproductive health services in its response plans and packages. Advocacy efforts have included translating, adapting and disseminating the MISP and related documentation. UNFPA also provides training for many staff and volunteers providing services. Today the ability to address reproductive health needs of disaster-affected communities is integrated into Iran's humanitarian response plans and services.

Recovery: Supporting access to trained medical professionals in Pakistan

Pakistan is a disaster-prone country, particularly to flooding. UNFPA has supported Pakistan's complex emergency and return process for internally displaced people by deploying trained medical teams to provide 24/7 maternity services to women in South Waziristan. By organizing women and youth reproductive health disaster risk reduction (RHDRR) committees, UNFPA has helped kickstart evidence-based, village-driven emergency planning. In addition, UNFPA has helped institutionalize Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in government-led plans.

Preparedness and Recovery: Lessons learned from the Nepal earthquake

On a global scale, Nepal is a 'disaster hotspot' at high risk from earthquakes, floods and landslides. During 2016, UNFPA continued to support Female Friendly Spaces and carry out capacity building as part of the recovery process from the 2015 earthquake. UNFPA is continuing its work pre-positioning relief items, and updating disaster preparedness and response plans to incorporate Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) components. UNFPA is collaborating with stakeholders to strengthen coordination mechanisms and capacity-build for service providers on MISP, GBV and disaster assessment.

Preparedness: Scaling preparedness through government partnership in India

UNFPA worked closely with the Government of India National Disaster Management Authority, civil society and other partners to develop a comprehensive training manual for the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for reproductive health in emergencies. The collaboration focused on the specific needs in an Indian context. Preparedness efforts involved developing the technical capacity of government officials who in turn facilitated training at state and district levels, integrating the MISP into state and district disaster management plans.

Response: Dignity Kits and safe childbirth in storm-battered Sri Lanka

In May 2016, Cyclone Roanu triggered Sri Lanka's worst floods in 25 years. Almost 300,000 people were impacted, with women and girls the most affected. Through the Central Emergency Response Fund, UNFPA collaborated with the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Health to immediately provide 1,000 maternity kits and 6,000 dignity kits, support mobile clinics for pregnant mothers and conduct awareness-raising sessions on reproductive health and gender-based violence for women and girls of reproductive age, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. UNFPA also helped fund the supply of hygiene items to women and girls in both the immediate aftermath and the resettlement phase.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its former frontiers or boundaries.



Recovery: Building sustainable peace in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is situated in the 'Ring of Fire' and so is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides, drought, tsunamis and rising sea levels. UNFPA, together with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), has trained over 120 health workers in the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) and IPPF's SPRINT initiative. UNFPA has pre-positioned reproductive health kits and dignity kits to address the immediate needs of disaster-affected communities with the support of the Australian Government.

Preparedness: Integrating population data with disaster management in Indonesia

Part of the Asia-Pacific 'Ring of Fire,' Indonesia has long been prone to disasters and vulnerable to extreme weather events wrought by climate change. By supporting data collection efforts, UNFPA facilitated a successful partnership between Statistics Indonesia and the National Agency for Disaster Management to integrate population data with disaster information, which helps to ensure timely and good quality data to be utilized in times of crisis, especially as alert signals. UNFPA also works closely with the Ministry of Health to pre-position supplies and to integrate the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in disaster preparedness plans.

Response: Distributing Dignity Kits during Mongolia's Dzud

Mongolia experienced extreme winter conditions known as a Dzud during 2015-2016. As animals died in large numbers, this jeopardized the welfare and security of herder communities. In crises that create financial hardships and displacement, women and girls often need basic items to ensure their safety, security and dignity. As one of the worst Dzuds in history unfolded, access to health facilities became almost impossible. UNFPA distributed Dignity Kits to affected women and girls, promoting the health and wellbeing of herder communities.

Response: Reaching some of the most vulnerable in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. Women and girls of reproductive age were hardest hit among the 6 million people affected in recent cyclones and flooding. UNFPA recruited and deployed midwives in hard-to-reach areas, provided vouchers for transportation of pregnant women, and distributed emergency reproductive health kits, life-saving medicines and dignity kits. UNFPA also established Women Friendly Spaces and Community Watch Groups to address gender-based violence. Strong advocacy efforts led to a GBV cluster being established under the country's humanitarian framework, to be co-led by the government and UNFPA.

Response: Reaching the most marginalized in Myanmar

Myanmar faces multiple overlapping humanitarian needs. Over a quarter of the population in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states are displaced by continuing armed conflict, with over 645,000 people displaced in 2016. Cyclone Komen caused significant flooding nationwide. Conditions in IDP camps are extremely difficult to begin with, and cyclical flooding leaves vulnerable women and girls exposed to further hardships in accessing services. UNFPA has launched the 'Women and Girls First' initiative (WGFI), which seeks to achieve gender equality and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Under the WGFI, rapid response teams comprising a doctor, nurse and caseworker enable emergency responses for GBV survivors and women in need of lifesaving reproductive health care.

Response: Investing in young people on the frontlines in the Philippines

Severe drought, typhoons, heavy monsoon rains and flooding have resulted in significant displacement in the Philippines; women and girls are particularly vulnerable to these disasters. UNFPA's continued advocacy efforts with the government have resulted in the signing of an Administrative Order to facilitate the inclusion of the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) in future emergency planning. Youth engagement in the emergency response has been a crucial element in UNFPA's response efforts, including youth volunteers in mobile teams that deliver reproductive health services, distribute Dignity Kits, and reach out to peers by discussing sexual and reproductive health and GBV.

Preparedness: Pre-positioning reproductive health kits in Fiji

A huge challenge facing the Pacific region and its island nations is the combined impact of El Niño, La Niña and climate change. UNFPA pre-positioned clean delivery kits in Fiji, supported by the Australian Government. Amid the devastation of El Niño-fueled Cyclone Winston in February 2016, these strategically placed supplies were swiftly utilized to help address women and girls' immediate reproductive health needs, saving lives as part of a multi-pronged process.

Response: Meeting family planning and midwifery needs in Vanuatu

Vanuatu is considered the world's most vulnerable country to natural hazards. UNFPA has engaged in the emergency response and recovery programming. This includes addressing gender-based violence in humanitarian settings (GBVIE) with a wide range of services: counseling, post-rape treatment, legal support, assistance with livelihoods and support through UNFPA's sexual and reproductive health programmes.

Preparedness: Pacific Island Countries

UNFPA, in collaboration with 14 Pacific island nations, launched KAILA! Pacific Voice for Action on Agenda 2030, aiming to strengthen climate change resilience through programmes focusing on women's, children's and adolescent health, integrating key aspects and issues contained within the Sustainable Development Agenda and its cross-cutting goals.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Asia Pacific is home to

more than **80%**

of the world's disasters

At any time, approximately



4%

of any displaced or disaster affected population will be pregnant

15%

of those will experience pregnancy-related complications

There are over

125 million people

in need of humanitarian assistance in **2016**, the most vulnerable of whom are women and children.

Vulnerability to natural disasters is increasing, exacerbated by poverty and environmental destruction

At least **90**
per cent

of the victims of natural disasters live in developing countries

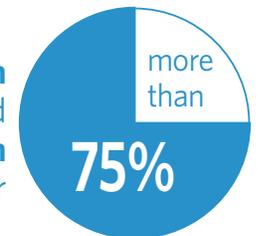
Two-thirds

of people infected with HIV



live in countries affected by recurrent natural hazards and conflict

Women and children account for



of the refugees and displaced persons at risk from war, famine, persecution and natural disaster

60 per cent



of maternal deaths

45 per cent



of newborn deaths

take place in fragile contexts

In emergencies, women and adolescent girls confront exclusion, marginalization and exploitation including gender-based violence



Of the

1.4 billion people

living in fragile states,

almost **60%** are under the age of **25**