

Inter-agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings Field Review Process

The Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises has undergone a three-year consultative process to revise the 1999 *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations: An Inter-agency Field Manual* (Field Manual), the authoritative guidance on reproductive health interventions in humanitarian settings. Engaging over 100 members from United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations, the 2010 [Inter-agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings](#) was launched for field-testing at the IAWG annual meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in May 2010.

Revisions have improved the information and usefulness of the Field Manual. The 2010 version provides additional guidance on how to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health, a minimum standard of care in humanitarian response. It also splits the original chapter on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) into two separate chapters to accommodate new guidance on HIV programming. A new chapter on Comprehensive Abortion Care has been developed to cover more than post-abortion care. The chapters on Program Design, Monitoring and Evaluation and Adolescent Reproductive Health have been placed earlier in the manual to address the cross-cutting nature of these topics. Information on human rights and legal considerations has been integrated into each of the thematic chapters to ensure that program staff can address rights-related concerns.

The updated information is based on normative technical guidance of the World Health Organization. It also reflects the good practices documented in crisis settings around the world since the initial field-test version was released in 1996. The latest edition reflects the wide application of the Field Manual's principles and technical content beyond refugee situations, extending its use into diverse crises, including conflict zones and natural disasters.

The 2010 Field Manual will be field-tested for approximately one year to examine its clarity, applicability and usability for reproductive health programming in humanitarian settings. To date, an estimated 8,000 Field Manuals have been distributed to the field in English, Spanish and French. There will be two components to the field review: an online survey and the other qualitative workshops.



1. Online Survey

The online survey gauges relevant actors on their opinions regarding the clarity, comprehensibility, “implementability” and “actionability” of the revised Field Manual. The survey is intended for those coordinating (program managers, reproductive health coordinators) and implementing reproductive health services (medics, nurses, midwives, physicians, etc.) and other relevant staff from international and local NGOs, government and UN agencies.

Instructions for completing the survey can be found in the survey itself. The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The survey will be open until **May 30, 2011** to give ample time for staff to read and apply the Field Manual to their specific setting. We highly encourage staff to have used the Field Manual for several months before completing the survey, as otherwise not all questions can be answered. All information provided will be kept confidential. Participation is voluntary and consent to participate will be presumed for those who respond to the survey questions.

The survey is available online from the [IAWG web page on the Field Manual](#). The English survey is [here](#). Alternatively, if you have an unreliable internet connection, it is accessible in pdf [here](#). Please note that the survey cannot be completed in pdf format so this is for informational purposes only.

French and Spanish versions of the survey will be available in due course. For questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the IAWG Field Manual steering committee at info@iawg.net.

2. Qualitative Workshops

Qualitative workshops with practitioners are planned in six locations to assess the Field Manual’s applicability in varied humanitarian contexts. While the aim is the same as the survey, the qualitative workshops are expected to better address more contextualized questions, such as the extent to which the Field Manual can meet the needs of different types of emergencies, displacement contexts and transition processes.

More information on the dates and locations of the workshops will be available in late 2010. The workshops will be convened beginning in 2011, once agencies have had several months to employ the Field Manual in their particular settings.

The Field Manual needs to be continually improved and updated for its effectiveness and application to be optimized. At the end of the one



year field review process, the information from the survey and workshops will be analyzed for the IAWG Field Manual steering committee to determine any necessary improvements. To this end, your experiences with the Field Manual are of paramount importance and your feedback is essential.

The IAWG Field Manual steering committee appreciates and thanks you for your time and participation in the field review process.

