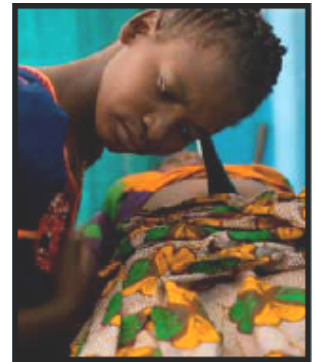


Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises

The Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises* was formed in 1995 to promote access to quality reproductive health care for refugee women and others affected by humanitarian emergencies. It originally comprised more than 30 groups, including United Nations (UN) agencies, universities and governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and was led by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

The IAWG developed the 1999 *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations: An Inter-agency Field Manual* for persons assisting refugees; outlined the minimum services that must be provided in all disaster settings; designed kits for rapid deployment to aid workers; and recognized the need for continued advocacy, funding and technical assistance for reproductive health programs for crisis-affected populations. In 2010, the IAWG launched the revised *Inter-agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings* that continues to serve as the authoritative guidance on reproductive health programming in humanitarian settings.



In 2004, the IAWG conducted a ten-year global evaluation of reproductive health services in conflict-affected settings to identify gaps and constraints for UN agencies, governments and nongovernmental organizations to better target resources and interventions. Findings showed that services were generally favorable for refugees in stable settings but were lacking for the internally displaced. Some areas, such as gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS services, were found to be weak, and critical gaps remained within maternal and newborn health, family planning and sexually transmitted infections programs.

Since its formation, the IAWG has met annually (with the exception of 2005 and 2009) to exchange information, identify challenges, gain from the experience of others, build partnerships and collectively work toward the institutionalization of reproductive health care in crises. The IAWG further supports regional IAWG networks in the Asia-Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East Northern Africa and Latin America and Caribbean regions.

Membership in IAWG is open to representatives of UN, nongovernmental, research and donor agencies interested in actively contributing to the advancement of the reproductive health of women, men and adolescents in humanitarian settings.

For more information, including on how to join IAWG, please go to:

www.iawg.net

