

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

Training Partnership (TP)

Information sheet

August 2010

As the frequency and intensity of crises and their related reproductive health (RH) needs continue to rise, demand for training has also increased. The IAWG partners (United Nations (UN) agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and donors) address this demand through the development of relevant training modules and partnership initiatives.

Many national training institutes and universities in the south are mandated to provide training, conduct research and often, to provide community support. They thus share a common framework with the IAWG.

The 'IAWG Training Partnership (TP) for Reproductive Health (RH) in Crises' is one of the IAWG's sub-working groups that was formed in 2006. It aims to establish partnerships between the IAWG and training institutions from crises prone countries in order to assure quality training on RH in emergency preparedness and response on a regular and sustainable basis. The IAWG TP is linked to other IAWG sub-working groups, like the WG on the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for RH.

The objectives of the IAWG Training Partnership are to: 1) build capacity of strategic partners, 2) improve quality of RH training for (future) humanitarian workers, and 3) pilot new training modules.

These objectives and related activities are guided by Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 'universal access to reproductive health'. They adhere to the principles expressed in the SPHERE Humanitarian Charter and the Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, in particular the implementation of the MISP. The MISP's integrated programming approach also figures prominently throughout the Global Health Cluster Guidelines.

The Training Partnership's strategy focuses on sharing existing IAWG training initiatives; identifying training gaps and, where needed, supporting the development of new training modules.

Annual meetings discuss approaches to deliver RH trainings and capacity building initiatives in the most effective and sustainable manner in crises-prone countries.

Such initiatives must increase national capacity to effectively coordinate and deliver quality RH services from the onset of the emergency and to conduct effective national planning for and implementing integrated comprehensive RH services during the recovery phase.

Other critical issues under discussion are quality control and certification of training materials, trainers and trainees, effective adult learning training models and design of a platform for sharing information and strategies for sustainable implementation.

The following activities are planned for 2011-2013:

Establish a training e-exchange platform & community of practice

Share RH training materials and best practices between IAWG partners and training partners in the crises prone countries

Collaborate with national research departments

Identify and support PhD students to be able to conduct research on topics selected by IAWG

Provide training support

Integrate RH training into national curricula; develop regional/national certification; develop and pilot refresher modules on MISP clinical skills; initiate in-country or regional outreach trainings on these modules for clinical staff working in crisis settings; extend regional cascade trainings on RH coordination in crises, including emergency preparedness and contingency planning, also known as SPRINT Initiative

Enable institutional and national ownership of training initiatives

Build capacity of partners through inter-agency and inter-institutional networking and collaboration, including intra/inter-regional and South-South partnerships.

To enable coordination, implementation and dissemination of information, the TP established a joint Secretariat which is currently shared between UNFPA and CARE International.

Current training partners include: University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Makerere, College of Health Sciences, Uganda; National Schools of Public Health, Chad; Ipas Alliance, Kenya; Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand; Université de Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal; Kenyatta University School of Health Sciences, Kenya. Further partnerships are being developed, including with schools of midwifery and nursing.

