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Annex 2: UNFPA humanitarian update, 2021

Implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

This annex provides an update of the 2021 achievements of the UNFPA humanitarian response. The annex also provides the priorities for 2022 in responding to humanitarian emergencies.

Contents

1.	3	
2.	3	
3.	4	
	Implementation of remaining Evaluation recommendations	4
	Strengthen humanitarian capacity and operations	4
	Enhance preparedness and partnerships	5
	Implement new strategies for GBV and for humanitarian supplies	6
	Strengthen data production and use in humanitarian settings	7
4.	7	



Two generations, one struggle © UNFPA/Sudan/Sufian Abdul-Mouty

1. Overview

Amidst conflict, climate-related disasters, COVID-19 and increasing food shortages, UNFPA and its partners continued to deliver humanitarian assistance in 2021 to millions of women and young people in more than 60 countries. Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including for safe birth, modern contraception, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and post-rape care, along with the delivery of personal protective equipment, reached more than 29 million women of reproductive age in 2021. Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) remained a priority. Approximately 2 million survivors of gender-based violence accessed services through more than 12,000 safe spaces supported by UNFPA.

The results achieved in 2021 were made possible through the continuous support and partnership of our donors. Over \$350 million in revenue was mobilized for UNFPA humanitarian interventions during 2021, including through support to UNFPA's Humanitarian Thematic Fund. Multilateral contributions, particularly from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs), formed the largest share of UNFPA's humanitarian revenue during the period 2018-2021.

In 2021, UNFPA continued and expanded its critical work on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (PSEAH). UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem assumed the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Champion on PSEAH, pursuing stronger leadership, coordination, and accountability across the humanitarian system, placing the rights and dignity of victims at the center of these efforts.

UNFPA works with communities and national and local organizations before, during and after a crisis to prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters, provide emergency aid, and support recovery efforts.

In December 2021, UNFPA launched its Humanitarian Action Overview, with an appeal of \$835 million to reach more than 54 million women, girls, and young people with lifesaving services in 2022.

2. Snapshot of 2021 results

During 2021, UNFPA continued to provide lifesaving critical support to women and girls affected by humanitarian emergencies across the globe. Thanks to the generous support of donors and in close collaboration with our partners, UNFPA delivered the following results in 2021 in countries affected by humanitarian crises.

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH):

- 29 million women of reproductive age (15–49) reached with SRH services and supplies in 42 countries
- 4.3 million adolescents and young people (10–24) reached with tailored SRH services in 33 countries
- 1.5 million UNFPA-assisted safe deliveries in 29 countries
- 6 million people reached specifically with family planning services in 39 countries
- 2,200 Mobile clinics supported by UNFPA in 29 countries
- 2 million people, including health workers, reached with personal protective equipment in 29 countries
- 2,400 health facilities supported to provide Emergency Obstetric Care in 35 countries
- 44,000 health facility personnel and youth peers trained in SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH, in 34 countries
- 3 million older persons (65+) reached with SRH services, in 23 countries

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

- 2.4 million people reached with GBV services (prevention, risk mitigation and response services) in 39 countries
- 12,000 safe spaces for women and young people supported by UNFPA in 38 countries
- 500,000 dignity kits distributed in 41 countries
- 1,000 Health facilities that provide specialized GBV services (including clinical management of rape) supported in 38 countries

- 35,000 health personnel and youth facilitators trained on GBV, in areas such as clinical management of rape, in 35 countries
- 480,000 people reached with mental health and psychosocial support services (prevention of worsening distress, promotion of resilience, mental health & psychosocial risk management, or treatment) in 35 countries.

3. Key focus areas 2021

Implementation of remaining Evaluation recommendations

UNFPA is actively addressing the humanitarian evaluation recommendations and tracking their implementation. In 2021, UNFPA completed five of twelve recommendations and is on track to complete implementation of the remaining recommendations in 2022.

To address some of the identified shortfalls, a specific output on humanitarian action and a result framework with clear accountabilities was developed in 2021 for the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025. The Humanitarian Capacity Development Initiative undertaken in 2021 also responds to evaluation findings. Action plans are in place for preparedness and supply chain management, human resource management and capacity strengthening, resource mobilization and communication. Other highlights include the improvement of technical capacity in support of GBV sub-clusters in countries with the most urgent humanitarian needs, a global strategy for adolescents and youth to support UNFPA engagement on Youth Peace and Security, and a humanitarian supplies strategy to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Strengthen humanitarian capacity and operations

Getting to zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030 in humanitarian settings requires strengthening UNFPA's overall humanitarian capacity and operations to improve delivery on the ground, before, during and after emergencies.

In line with the Humanitarian Capacity Development Initiative, UNFPA is implementing a comprehensive plan for increasing humanitarian expertise, including a focus on leadership. The Humanitarian Office supported institutional capacity development, including training and technical support to regional and country offices to improve the quality of SRH and GBV services, and programming in humanitarian settings.

In 2021, UNFPA responded to 96 per cent of Level 1 and Level 2 humanitarian emergencies with surge personnel deployment achieved within the lead response time of 72 hours. The surge deployments provide rapid response personnel to head efforts in several key areas including SRH programming and coordination, GBV prevention and response, and communications. Together with other emergency response mechanisms, human resource deployment systems were improved for more effective emergency response.

Throughout 2021, limited travel due to COVID-19 resulted in the development and adaptation of interactive online training, piloting, and dissemination at regional and global levels. Efforts were undertaken in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) to achieve increased capacity in the areas of clinical management of rape and SRH in humanitarian settings. UNFPA increased internal capacity on SRH in emergencies (SRHiE) through three online training sessions with more than 100 UNFPA personnel with ongoing support and dialogue.

The UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund (HTF), a co-financing instrument, and the Emergency Fund, a core-funded instrument, provided rapid, flexible, catalytic funding for emergency response at the country level. In 2021, around \$29 million from the Emergency Fund and HTF was allocated to 78 countries. The Humanitarian Office ensured SRH and GBV guidance, technical review, and support, and tracking of allocation and utilization of UNFPA's Humanitarian Thematic Fund and Emergency Funds.

Enhance preparedness and partnerships

During 2021, the Humanitarian Office supported efforts for enhanced preparedness and partnerships. Within the humanitarian ecosystem, UNFPA continued to champion and deliver sexual and reproductive health services and supplies, and prevention and response to gender-based violence as essential and life-saving humanitarian interventions, along with mental health and psychosocial support. Contributing to global partnerships and frameworks, including the IASC, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), UNFPA strengthened prevention and preparedness through both interagency and internal coordination.

In collaboration with the IASC and partners of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (Call to Action), the Humanitarian Office and its GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) coordination team continued to effectively position UNFPA's lead agency role and advocated for the prioritization of GBV in emergencies, via the Principals' Roundtable on GBV Financing (February 2021), and supported a dedicated outcome on GBV coordination in the revised Road Map.

The Global GBV AoR governance review integrates local actors into the global membership, to influence strategy implementation, advocacy, and prioritization. In 2021, a similar programmatic approach was initiated at field level, to increase the role of women-led organizations in GBV coordination. Through these initiatives, local actors are joining decision-making fora as equal partners in two pilot countries, Somalia and South Sudan. The annual GBV AoR survey showed that GBV sub-clusters count 3000 organizations, spanning local actors, civil society, governments, INGOs and international organizations.

As an active Steering Committee member of the Interagency Working Group for SRH in Crisis (IAWG), UNFPA worked to improve SRH care in humanitarian settings with a wide range of partners, and continued to partner with UNHCR, WHO and the Global Health Cluster (GHC), on advancing technical guidance.

In recognition that local actors, including national NGOs and women-led organizations (WLOs), are critical for safe, effective, and sustainable GBV response and the long-term recovery, wellbeing, and resilience of GBV survivors, UNFPA continued to prioritize localization and accountability to affected populations. UNFPA joined the United Nations Partner Portal (UNPP) in 2021 and has been an advocate for other UN entities to participate. As of 31 Dec 2021, all UNFPA partners were migrated into the UNPP and, with only a few exceptions, will be required to have a UNPP profile. This advanced localization data tracking and reduced management costs. As part of its participation in the UNPP, UNFPA has spearheaded efforts to identify women-led organizations and increase the percentage of UNFPA's funding to them. Data is expected to be available for reporting at the end 2022.

UNFPA will continue building upon and amplifying national capacities through women- and girls-led and women's rights organizations, grassroots feminist movements, and community-based organizations. In April 2021, UNFPA released guidance to all staff on working with WLOs as implementing partners in all settings. It notes that when choosing an implementing partner, first priority has to be given to national government entities and / or national NGOs with a focus on WLOs. This directive, in addition to flexible partnership modalities, will support achieving the target of at least 43 percent of humanitarian funding going to local and national responders by 2025. Currently 38 per cent of humanitarian funding goes to local and national responders.

Implement new strategies for GBV and for humanitarian supplies

During 2021, UNFPA continued to make advances in prevention and response to gender-based violence and the delivery of humanitarian supplies.

The UNFPA GBV in Emergencies Strategy (2022-2025) and the GBV AoR Strategy launched in September 2021 set standards to improve the quality of integrated field services. The Strategy of the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, led by UNFPA under the Protection Cluster, provides direction for inter-agency GBV prevention, response, and mitigation efforts. These two new strategies are complementary and drive efforts to streamline service delivery and improve access to quality services.

The GBViE strategy aims to scale up life-saving gender-transformative GBV response, risk mitigation and prevention efforts to meet escalating needs of women and girls, including survivors, in humanitarian settings. One of the outcomes, and a foundational approach to the strategy, is working closely with local organizations, specifically women-led organizations so that they have increased capacity and space to influence the humanitarian response and to respond to the needs of women and girls. The UNFPA GBViE Strategy is aligned with the GBV AoR Strategy to ensure coherence, collaboration, and synergy; to enhance implementation of international standards and guidance; and to facilitate evidence-informed and quality GBV response. Furthermore, it seeks to leverage UNFPA's dual mandate and extensive network of partners to work more effectively throughout all phases of emergency response and across the humanitarian development continuum.

In 2021 UNFPA finalized and began implementation of its five-year Humanitarian Supplies Strategy (2021-2025) to improve the quality, availability and timely delivery and distribution of UNFPA's humanitarian supplies. The strategy aims to ensure that the appropriate supplies arrive where they are needed most, with the speed and quality required, to meet UNFPA humanitarian programme priorities and improve supply chain and humanitarian logistics management in three phases of an emergency: preparedness, acute response, and post-acute response. The strategy provides a strategic framework guiding UNFPA country, regional and global operations with clear activities to be implemented at all levels of the organization.

The Humanitarian Supplies Strategy articulates new ways of working, advocates for flexible funding mechanisms, and reinforces UNFPA's inter-agency role, and institutional coordination. Highlights in 2021 include:

- Positioning of UNFPA supplies at the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai with clearly documented benefits for UNFPA operations including faster and more effective response.
- Increased structural engagement and alignment with the Global Logistics Cluster, led by the World Food Programme.
- Strengthened capacity development including initiation of a UNFPA Humanitarian Supplies Training, pharmaceutical supply chain management (SCM) training, and medical logistics training with the Humanitarian and Emergency Logistics Project (HELP), and increased UNFPA participation in Global Logistics Cluster trainings.
- Development of key operational support materials including a humanitarian supply preparedness guide; interagency reproductive health (IARH) kit and non-food item (NFI) kit operational guides to be integrated into revised standard operating procedures; a toolkit to move from IARH kits to bulk procurement to be integrated into an emergency handbook based on pilot projects finalized in Yemen, Iraq and Cox's Bazar; and checklists to support proper supply chain management linked to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF);
- Implementation of environmental analysis on UNFPA humanitarian supply chain and contribution to key interagency projects on mitigation of environmental impact (e.g., ECHO environmental logistics standards)
- Modification of operational modalities for IARH kits in acute response to increase speed; structural engagement of the Humanitarian Office in the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) design to support supply management; and bi-weekly coordination calls between HO and Last Mile assurance (LMA) team culminating in HO implementation of spot check exercise in Yemen to improve applicability of LMA in humanitarian operations.
- Embedding humanitarian SCM and logistics needs into the structure of the new supply chain management unit, including key competencies at regional level; and
- Strengthening interagency activities to improve UNFPA capacity to deliver supplies to the last mile in humanitarian crisis.

In 2022, UNFPA will continue to implement the Humanitarian Supplies Strategy to make further progress.

Strengthen data production and use in humanitarian settings

UNFPA recognizes that without disaggregated, high-quality data and evidence, it will not be possible to accelerate the achievement of the three transformative results by 2030: zero unmet need for family planning; zero preventable

maternal deaths; and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices. The Strategic Plan 2022-2025 places a focus on populations left behind and reaching those furthest behind first.

The UNFPA Humanitarian Office initiated a Data Framework on humanitarian needs and results with the aim of designing, fostering, and building systems and investments in humanitarian data in coordination with the wider UN data community and UNFPA partners. This framework paves the way to strengthen UNFPA leadership on data and information related to SRH/GBV in emergencies. As a development and humanitarian actor, UNFPA is positioned to leverage data across the continuum. Successful implementation of the framework will improve the humanitarian data landscape by ensuring that standardized data are available when needed.

The framework is based on the vision of achieving the three transformative results and ensuring the effective implementation of lifesaving humanitarian programming through data that is timely, standardized and optimally leveraged: 1) Data are available at the time needed; 2) Information is standardized to allow for the measurement of results and comparison within and across crises; and 3) Stakeholders have the capacity to produce and/or use the data effectively. These strategic outcomes are harmonized with the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, especially Humanitarian Output 5, and address the key limitations identified by desk review and consultations.

During 2021, the Humanitarian Office via the GBV AoR also provided technical support on GBV information management to GBV sub-clusters across five regions. The global team issued updated guidance on GBV AoR data analysis, inter-agency planning and response monitoring in support of the Humanitarian Program Cycle, ensuring visibility for needs and associated financial requirements of field-level GBV prevention and response efforts. UNFPA via the GBV AoR team also ensured integration of GBV in inter-sectoral assessment tools (JIAF). Furthermore, a prioritization tool was developed, and field coordination capacities were mapped.

UNFPA contributed actively to two important initiatives for the consolidation and interagency alignment regarding SRH in humanitarian settings. The Global Health cluster-led H3 initiative seeks to establish High Impact Health Interventions in Humanitarian Settings and proposes a Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health Services and Outcomes in Humanitarian Settings led by WHO.

In 2021, the Interagency Standing Committee launched the IASC Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian Emergencies and Protracted Crises, with UNFPA participation and ongoing integration of the guidelines into UNFPA planning, policy and programming.

4. Looking ahead - Priorities for 2022

In line with the long-term vision set forth in the UNFPA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, the Humanitarian Office will be focusing on the following key priorities during 2022:

4.1 Lead on emergency response: The Humanitarian Office will continue strengthening its capacity and building the capacity of UNFPA as a whole and its partners to provide leadership for humanitarian response across the globe to safeguard the rights and dignity of women and girls in emergency and the gains to achieve the transformative results.

4.2 Support Regional and Country Offices in transformational changes for effective humanitarian interventions: Timely, robust, and innovative support to UNFPA regional and country offices will continue to be a priority to the Humanitarian Office.

4.3 Harmonization of integrated humanitarian programmes and improved standards: The Humanitarian Office will continue to create knowledge products to enhance the quality of the interventions across the globe, including on GBV, SRH, cash assistance, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

4.4 Positioning UNFPA and its mandated issues in international humanitarian communities and architecture, particularly within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The focuses continue to enhance UNFPA’s leaderships on the GBV Area of responsibility within IASC coordination mechanism, and leading Sexual and Reproductive Health Groups as part of the Global Health Cluster, and the GBV Information Management System.

4.5 Effective reporting and communication on results and impact of UNFPA’s humanitarian action: As women and girls are often overlooked in humanitarian settings, UNFPA is committed to reporting and communicating the results it achieves to strengthen partnerships and galvanize collective action in response to their critical needs. As UNFPA’s humanitarian revenue has grown by more than 100% from 2018-2021, UNFPA will work between headquarters divisions, regional, and country offices to ensure UNFPA’s humanitarian results and impacts are reported in the media and other publications.
