BRIEFING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

UNFPA Global Response to COVID-19

9 April 2020
IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On sexual and reproductive health and rights:

- Access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services severely disrupted.
- Pandemic is compounding existing gender inequalities.
- Shortages of vital supplies for sexual and reproductive health.
WOMEN represent 70% of the health and social sector workforce.
• Rise in gender-based violence
• Disruption of supply chains
• Rise in anxiety and fear among affected population – increased needs for mental health and psychosocial services
• Physical distancing is difficult in many crowded refugee and IDP sites
Part of a coherent UN response

Shared responsibility, Global solidarity: SG’s 3-step plan on socioeconomic impacts

IASC COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan

WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and supporting Crisis Mgmt Team

- At the country level, work with UNCTs under leadership of RC/HC
- Under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee cluster system, lead coordination of GBV within protection cluster, and are part of health cluster
- Contributing to health and GBV components in various SG reports
- Participates in World Bank-UN coordination structure
UNFPA is co-leading with WHO the “Health First” pillar of the UNSDG framework

Contributing to social protection, social cohesion, strengthening resilience and other pillars.

The framework is:
- A companion piece to the UN Humanitarian Appeal and SG report
- Practical and concrete initial offer of UNDS, coordinated and led by the RCs.

Encompasses an immediate response with a holistic and long-term view towards 2030 Agenda
UNFPA Strategic Priorities and Interventions
3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce

2. Addressing gender-based violence

3. Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and reproductive health commodities
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce

- Strengthen health systems to maintain quality sexual and reproductive health services.
- Ensuring an adequate healthcare workforce and relevant medical supplies, equipment and material for infection prevention and control.
- Providing dignity kits to address the hygiene needs of women and girls, based on local needs and procurement realities
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

Addressing gender-based violence

- Continuity of life-saving services for survivors of gender-based violence and the most at-risk women and girls.

- Referral pathways and risk-mitigation information are updated.

- Prevention, protection, response, coordination and capacity development.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities

- Mitigating impact on reproductive health supplies, including modern contraceptives and maternal health medicines.

- Supporting ministries of health and other institutions to provide online screening, information, reproductive health and contraception counselling;

- Partnering with private-sector health-care providers to extend services,

- Promoting primary health-care and community empowerment programmes to shift commodity distribution from clinical settings to communities.
4 ACCELERATOR INTERVENTIONS

1. Leaving no one behind
2. Data
3. Risk communication and stigma reduction
4. Youth engagement
GLOBAL TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

UNFPA has partnered within the IASC and other coordination mechanisms to produce technical notes on the COVID-19 response:

- **Technical Brief on the Implications of COVID-19 on Census**
- **Adolescents and Young People & Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**
- **Gender Equality and Addressing Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Prevention, Protection and Response**
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Modern Contraceptives and Other Medical Supply Needs, Including for COVID-19 Prevention, Protection and Response**
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Maternal and Newborn Health & COVID-19**
- **COVID-19: A Gender Lens**
PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND MECHANISMS

RESOURCES REQUIRED
$187.5 MILLION*
FOR GLOBAL RESPONSE

Part of the UN’s Global Humanitarian Response Plan, $120 million, for humanitarian situations. Additional needs – in contexts not covered by global appeal - totaling US$67.5 million until end April

- Re-programming of existing resources is under way
- Core contributions more important than ever as UNFPA responds to COVID-19
- Outreach to private partners to solicit support for COVID-19 appeal.
- Visibility partnerships to expand communication of risk-related messages and stories on access to SRH and GBV services.
- UNFPA responds to COVID-19 with critical support of key partners - governments, private sector, civil society, philanthropic organizations, UN entities and international financing institutions

*As the pandemic evolves and expands, UNFPA will revise its overall appeal, factoring in needs and appropriate responses within its mandate and across all settings – humanitarian, fragile contexts and development.
Action on the ground
Our Response in Asia-Pacific

- **China**: Critical medical supplies and over 500,000 sanitary items delivered to the frontline health workers, women - particularly pregnant women - and girls in Hubei Province.

- **Iran**: We responded to the urgent needs of older persons for protection and procured thousands of PPEs.

- **Vietnam**: Delivering critical supplies for pregnant women, women delivering babies, and frontline health workers.
Our Response in the Arab States

- Protecting pregnant women and safe deliveries in Yemen and in Zaatari camp in Jordan
- Working with the youth to spread awareness and prevention messages (Syria)
- Supporting community outreach through the large and expanding youth network (Sudan)
- Women centres sewing PPE for communities, health facilities & medical teams (Iraq)
Our Response in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- **Turkey**: Providing essential hygiene supplies and basic health screenings to help protect vulnerable people.

- **Kyrgyzstan**: Youth volunteers bringing basic necessities & psychosocial support to older people living in isolation.

- **Moldova**: Supporting women affected by GBV, in partnership with UN Women.
Our Response in Latin America and the Caribbean

- El Salvador: as part of HCT, UNFPA delivered to Criminal Centers personal hygiene products for women in prison.
- Venezuela: UNFPA supports a hotline to help women subjected to domestic violence during quarantine.
- Haiti: UNFPA deployed community health workers in the Coupe de Pétion-ville market to sensitize merchants on how to protect themselves.
- The Caribbean: Ensuring that women and adolescent girls have access to modern contraception and that mothers can give birth safely.
Our Response in Africa

• Nigeria: Mobilized the private sector to contribute to procurement and ensure safe health services for women and girls, including gender-based violence survivors.

• Liberia: Working with the UNCT, UNFPA is working with the National Public Health Institute of Liberia in disease surveillance and contact tracing.

• East and Southern Africa: UNFPA provides online safe spaces where youth can share their concerns and access accurate information.
BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DUTY OF CARE

- UNFPA remains operational, supporting the people and communities we serve.
- Our priority is to ensure that all UNFPA personnel in over 150 offices are protected, and that our mandate stays central.
- We have activated global security management and crisis response teams to ensure rapid decision-making.
- Business continuity plans are in place, enabling us to continue providing financial, programme and technical support.
- Fast-track provisions will allow partners to respond in a timely and agile fashion to the rapidly evolving needs.
THANK YOU