

## PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This briefing summarizes the findings of a study to map and document programmes on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) implemented in humanitarian settings in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in 2008-2012.

Objectives of the study were:

- Map emergency programmes on SRH and GBV covering both preparedness and response, with a particular focus on those led or directly supported by UNFPA;
- Trace the role played by UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO);
- Select and document good and promising practices and related lessons learned.

This stocktaking exercise was meant to provide UNFPA with information on past and current practices, what has worked and what has not worked, challenges and opportunities as a way to learn from experience and enhance future SRH and GBV programming in the region.



## GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Multi-sectoral and multi-institutional approach

UNFPA acts a facilitator bringing together actors across multiple levels and sectors of intervention. This allows for GBV and SRH to be addressed from different angles and for the optimization of resources and expertise through better coordinated and integrated programming.

### Enhanced data collection and management tools

Structured approaches to SRH and GBV data collection and management on SRH and GBV allow for safe and ethical information sharing, improved services and opportunities for concerted and effective response in crisis situations.

### A truly culturally sensitive approach

Adopting a cultural lens to emergency preparedness and response helps clarifying operating realities and enhances the chances for programmes' effectiveness, also through greater acceptance by people at the local level.

### Making disaster preparedness and relief inclusive

Analysing the risks, vulnerabilities and capacities of all is essential for the effectiveness and durability of emergency preparedness and response interventions.

### Attention to and active engagement of the youth

Reaching out to the youth is key in emergency situations not only to capture their specific vulnerabilities, but also to build on their ability to act as agents of change in their communities, to influence their peers and to help.

### The need for a transformative approach

A profound transformation in the mind-set of those engaged in the provision of assistance is needed to eradicate discriminatory attitudes and prejudices and ensure a proper integration of GBV and SRH issues in emergency response.

### Build institutional capacity on GBV and SRH

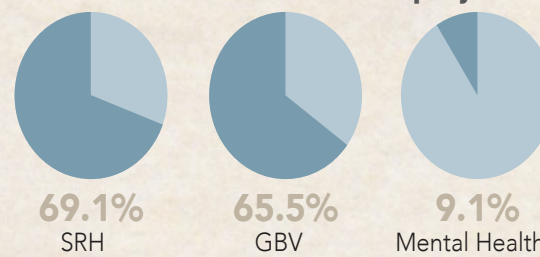
Systematic investment should be made for the institutionalization of GBV and SRH across the disaster management cycle.

### Community ownership and participation

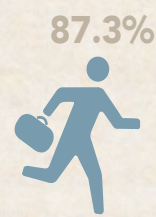
Through consultations and the active mobilization of communities the reality on the ground can be understood and ownership by communities can be built, thus increasing the likelihood of programmes to be effective and durable.

## FINDINGS OF THE MAPPING

### Areas of focus included in projects



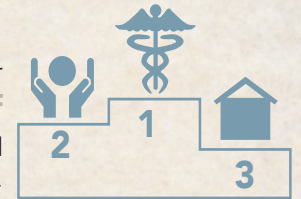
CERF has been the most regular source of funding of emergencies in 2008-2012.



87.3%

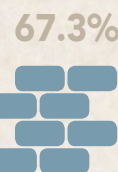
of programmes focus only on response activities.

Health, protection and shelter are the primary sectors of intervention for SRH and GBV programmes.



of programmes are targeted to **women**. Other targeted groups include the youth, children, men, persons with disabilities, older and indigenous people. Some activities such as capacity development and awareness raising, are also directed to service providers, governmental entities, community leaders and NGOs.

of programmes include **capacity development** activities. Other activities are distribution of items, provision of services, awareness raising, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, policy/strategy development, and coordination.



58.2%



UNFPA LACRO supports SRH and GBV programmes in emergencies through operations, technical assistance, coordination and funding.

The primary **implementers** of SRH and GBV programmes in emergencies are local organizations and governmental entities, supported by UNFPA and other UN agencies.



**Partnership** is mostly with the government, other UN agencies and local actors.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Ensure a common understanding and appreciation of **UNFPA mandate and role on SRH and GBV, including in emergencies**, among staff and partners across the region and that adequate capacity (human resources, time and seniority/accountability) is placed in country offices for emergency preparedness and response.
- 2 Continue **investing in building knowledge and learning** on SRH and GBV practices across countries in the region.
- 3 Promote more **structured and regular ways** to exchange experiences and document practices within UNFPA in the region.
- 4 Select a **handful of practices and experiences** for further exploration and documentation with a view to learning and replicability.
- 5 Collect evidence on **how things are done** and the implications, both positive and negative, of different approaches.
- 6 Increasingly move towards a more **in-depth reporting and analysis** of programmes' results and impacts.
- 7 Strengthen **UNFPA role on coordination and partnership**, with a focus on linking GBV and SRH actors with those working on disaster management and emergency response.
- 8 Continue advocating for the inclusion of SRH and GBV in **national contingency and emergency preparedness and response plans, policies and protocols**.
- 9 Systematically trace programmes targeted to **young people** and their effectiveness.
- 10 Ensure adequate **continuity of funds** for emergency preparedness and response.
- 11 Closely monitor the implementation of the GBVIMS in Colombia, as well as similar attempts for **systematic collection and analysis of data on GBV and SRH**. Consider the development of data collection and management tools for SRH, where needed.
- 12 Ensure efforts to **sustain the capacities created on MISP and the use of UNFPA kits** and to capitalize and mobilize capacity when needed.
- 13 Establish a **roster of trained and qualified reproductive health coordinators and GBV experts** at the regional level ready for deployment to emergency situations.
- 14 Ensure sensitization of **UNFPA and partners' staff on GBV and SRH**, particularly against stigmatization, discrimination, prejudices and negative attitudes and behaviours.
- 15 Ensure **sexuality concerns** are well taken into account and integrated in UNFPA emergency preparedness and response.





<http://lac.unfpa.org/>

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office



# LEARN TO RESPOND

Good practices and lessons learned on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) in emergency settings in Latin America and the Caribbean

