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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH during CONFLICT and DISPLACEMENT

A guide for programme managers



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Foreword

Reproductive health care covers a wide range of issues: pregnancy and childbirth; the protection of women, children, adolescents and men from emotional, physical and sexual abuse; family planning counselling and services to prevent unwanted pregnancies and the sequelae of unsafe abortion; the treatment and prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; and the discouragement of harmful traditional practices. The provision of reproductive health services should be based on the needs of the population, with particular attention being paid to vulnerable groups, such as women and adolescents. The sociocultural values of the community should be respected, and reproductive health services for communities experiencing the trauma of conflict and displacement ought to be considered as much a human right as the basic essentials of shelter, food, water and sanitation.

The World Health Organization is a member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations which has supported the development and publication of *Reproductive health in refugee situations—an inter-agency field manual*. This manual is based on WHO norms and guidelines and addresses technical issues related to reproductive health.

The present manual, *Reproductive health during conflict and displacement: a guide for programme managers*, is designed to complement the Inter-agency Field Manual by providing a tool that defines how to develop practical and appropriately-focused reproductive health programmes during each phase of conflict and displacement—pre-conflict, conflict, stabilization and post-conflict. The Department of Reproductive Health and Research—in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations and other WHO programmes (Violence and Injury Prevention, Women's Health, and Emergency and Humanitarian Action)—has built upon the technical norms outlined in the *Inter-agency field manual* to develop this complementary manual. The manual has been field-tested in a variety of refugee settings and is intended for use by national and international programme managers.

This is the first edition of *Reproductive health during conflict and displacement: a guide for programme managers* and, in order to know if it meets your needs, we should be grateful for feedback from the agencies, organizations and individuals who use this Guide. Please help us to identify its strengths and weaknesses; we welcome your suggestions for improvement. Your contributions will enable us to continue our work in the Inter-Agency Working Group, including the development of a comprehensive set of tools which will be firmly based on the challenges of developing and managing reproductive health programmes in any phase of conflict and displacement.

Please send your comments to the Team Coordinator, Development of Norms and Tools, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization, Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

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