

## About the MISP Distance Learning Module

The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health (RH) is a coordinated set of priority activities designed to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence; reduce HIV transmission; prevent excess maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality; and plan for comprehensive RH services. Additional priority activities of the MISP include making contraceptives available to meet demand, syndromic treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and ensuring antiretrovirals (ARVs) for continuing users. The MISP distance learning module aims to increase humanitarian actors' knowledge of these priority RH services to initiate at the onset of a crisis and to scale up for equitable coverage throughout protracted crises and recovery, while planning for comprehensive RH services and implementing them as soon as possible.

The MISP was first articulated in 1996 in the field-test version of *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations: An Inter-agency Field Manual*,<sup>1</sup> a resource developed by the IAWG on Reproductive Health in Crises. The MISP was then updated and revised in the *Inter-agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings: 2010 Revision for Field Review (Field Manual)*. Founded in 1995 and formerly known as the IAWG on Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations, the IAWG seeks to advance the RH of women, men and adolescents in humanitarian settings. IAWG is currently led by a steering committee of 12 agencies that includes representatives of UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic organizations. It has more than 800 members on its listserv. Unless a specific reference is given, the information provided in the MISP module is based on the IAWG's 2010 *Field Manual*, which provides specific guidelines on how to address the RH needs of displaced populations from the initial emergency through to reconstruction and development.

The MISP is a standard in the *Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response*<sup>2</sup> and is integrated into the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) Health Cluster tools and guidance.<sup>3</sup>

### Who is the MISP Module designed for?

The module incorporates a multi-sectoral set of activities to be implemented by humanitarian workers operating in health, camp design and management, community services, protection and other sectors. The MISP module is particularly useful for members of emergency response teams and other humanitarian first responders in crisis settings as it focuses on populations displaced by crises, such as armed conflict and natural disasters. Although the MISP module is most relevant to those working in emergency settings, it can also be referenced when scaling up services to ensure equitable coverage in protracted crises and recovery.

### How long will it take me to complete the MISP Module?

Approximately 4 hours.

<sup>1</sup> Inter-agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises, *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations: An Inter-agency Field Manual*, 1999. Available from [http://iawg.net/resources/iawg\\_Field%20Manual\\_1999.pdf](http://iawg.net/resources/iawg_Field%20Manual_1999.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The Sphere Project, *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response*, 2011. Available from [www.sphereproject.org](http://www.sphereproject.org).

<sup>3</sup> An example is: World Health Organization, *Health Cluster Guide*, June 2009. Available from [http://www.who.int/hac/global\\_health\\_cluster/en/](http://www.who.int/hac/global_health_cluster/en/).

## THE OBJECTIVE

OF THE MISP MODULE IS FOR READERS TO:

- ✦ Define and understand each component of the MISP;
- ✦ Grasp the importance of implementing the MISP in humanitarian settings;
- ✦ Understand the importance of addressing RH as a core part of overall health response and health sector/cluster coordination;
- ✦ Understand the role and functions of the RH lead agency/officer within the health sector/cluster;
- ✦ Be able to provide information on how to order MISP supplies internationally or obtain them locally;
- ✦ Know the most important things for the health sector/cluster to do in a humanitarian crisis to prevent and respond to sexual violence;
- ✦ Know the priority interventions for reducing HIV transmission in the earliest phase of crisis situations;
- ✦ Understand the best ways to reduce maternal and newborn death and disability at the onset of an emergency;
- ✦ Be able to plan for comprehensive RH programming services integrated into primary health care (PHC) as the situation permits; and
- ✦ Ensure contraceptives are available to meet demand; that syndromic treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is available to patients presenting with symptoms; and that antiretrovirals (ARVs) are available to continue treatment for people already on ARVs. In addition, the MISP will ensure that culturally appropriate menstrual protection materials are distributed to women and girls.


### How do I use the MISP Module?

The module is a self-instructional learning module. It should initially be read in order of chapters and can later be used as a reference. The user reads through each chapter and completes the chapter quizzes, and takes the final quiz. The online version of the module is interactive and also includes quizzes and links to additional web-based resources from the IAWG website.<sup>4</sup>

### In what format and languages is the MISP Module available?

The module is available online on the Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises website at [www.iawg.net](http://www.iawg.net), the Women's Refugee Commission's website at [www.womensrefugeecommission.org](http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org) and the Reproductive Health Response in Crises (RHRC) Consortium website at [www.rhrc.org](http://www.rhrc.org). The dedicated website is <http://misp.rhrc.org>.

<sup>4</sup> Inter-agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises website is available from <http://www.iawg.net>.



Disclaimer: Please note that the MISP distance learning module can be completed free of charge. There is no guarantee of employment with any humanitarian agency upon completion of the MISP module.

Print copies can be ordered by emailing [info@wrcommission.org](mailto:info@wrcommission.org) or [info@iawg.net](mailto:info@iawg.net). The 2011 module is available in Arabic, French and Spanish.

**Are there ways to provide feedback for improving or asking questions about the MISP Module?**

Yes, send an email to [info@wrcommission.org](mailto:info@wrcommission.org).

**Is there a way to certify that I've completed the MISP Module?**

Yes, once you have completed the post-test online with 80 percent correct answers, you will automatically receive a certificate of completion that you can print out directly.