Inter-Agency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Crises

By the end of 2013, roughly 51.2 million persons were displaced by conflict, persecution, generalized violence and human rights violations, the highest number since World War II.\(^1\) In addition, 22 million persons were displaced by natural disasters.\(^2\) Seventy-five to eighty percent of these crisis-affected populations are women, children and youth (aged 10-24).\(^3\) Over half of maternal and under-five deaths take place in settings affected by armed conflict or natural disasters.\(^4\) Addressing the reproductive health and rights of women, men and youth affected by these crises is essential to achieving Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6.\(^5\)

OUR MISSION: To improve the reproductive health of women, men, boys and girls affected by conflict and natural disasters.

WHO WE ARE: Formed in 1995, and currently comprising a network of nearly 1,800 individual members from 450 agencies, the Interagency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises is a broad-based, highly collaborative coalition committed to expanding and strengthening access to quality RH services for persons affected by conflict and natural disaster. The IAWG is led by 18 Steering Committee member agencies representing the United Nations (UN), governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and donors.

WHAT WE DO: Among populations affected by conflict and natural disaster, the IAWG:
- Documents gaps, accomplishments and lessons learned;
- Evaluates the state of reproductive health in the field;
- Establishes technical standards for the delivery of reproductive health services;
- Builds and disseminates evidence to policy makers, managers and practitioners; and
- Advocates for the inclusion of crisis-affected persons in global development and humanitarian agendas.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:
- **Strengthening the Evidence Base:** Completed a 2012-2014 Global Evaluation of Reproductive Health in Crises. The findings were launched in a special supplement of the online peer-reviewed journal, *Conflict and Health*, which is available from: [www.conflictandhealth.com/supplements/9/S1](http://www.conflictandhealth.com/supplements/9/S1).
- **Annual Meetings:** Held its 14th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where participants exchanged information, identified challenges and collectively worked towards the institutionalization of quality reproductive health care in crises.
- **Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP):** Updated in 2011 to reflect advances in evidence-based knowledge, the MISP is included in the 2011 revised SPHERE minimum standards and guidelines.

Membership in IAWG is open to representatives of the UN, nongovernmental, research and donor agencies. Additional Information, including our reports and tools, are available on our website: [www.iawg.net](http://www.iawg.net)

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\(^1\) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Global Trends 2013.
\(^3\) UNFPA. *State of the World Population 2000*.
\(^5\) MDG 4 is to reduce child mortality; 5 to improve maternal health; and 6 to combat major diseases.