

Overview of the IAWG Training Partnership Initiative

The Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises Training Partnership Initiative (TPI) was formed in 2006 to address clinical service gaps identified in the implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health. The need for these efforts continues to be great. According to the IAWG's 2012-2014 Global Evaluation, insufficient technical capacity and a scarcity of health care staff, as well as a lack of respectful rights-based sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care were identified as some of the barriers to implementing quality SRH care in humanitarian settings.¹

In October 2017, the IAWG-TPI was awarded a three-year grant from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue its mission to support the development of regional, national, and local capacity to effectively coordinate and deliver quality trainings on SRH services from the onset of a crisis response. The IAWG-TPI focuses on an integrated, inclusive, and comprehensive approach to capacity development, involving partnerships with key stakeholders and practitioners within and across crisis-affected countries. This decentralized approach is intended to ensure the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of capacity development efforts.

IAWG-TPI Project Objectives and Achievements

Since its re-launch in 2015, the IAWG-TPI has been working to meet four mission targeted objectives:

Resource development: Develop a series of four SRH Clinical Outreach Refresher Trainings (S-CORTs) on the clinical components of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health.

- The full training package is available for free download on iawg.net/tpi-home/resources/.

Coordination of partnerships: Coordinate, strengthen, and maintain capacity building partnerships between IAWG members and training institutions from crisis-prone countries and regions to ensure that quality trainings on SRH are accessible.

- The IAWG-TPI partnered with the Institut African de Santé Publique in Burkina Faso, the Family Planning Association of Nepal in Nepal, and the Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery in South Sudan to design, pilot, and evaluate the roll out of the S-CORT modules.

Capacity development: Roll out the S-CORTs based on sound evidence and international standards, with in-country training institutions.

- In the three participating countries, 137 health care providers were trained by the IAWG-TPI and its partners. Master trainers from Burkina Faso, Nepal, and South Sudan delivered the trainings.

Evidence Building: Build the body of evidence on capacity development for SRH in humanitarian settings through operations research and reporting.

- Local research institutions helped carry out operations research. The research aimed to determine the operational enablers and barriers related to their implementation in humanitarian contexts. Findings are documented in a peer reviewed article: "[Clinical outreach refresher trainings in crisis settings \(S-CORT\): clinical management of sexual violence survivors and manual vacuum aspiration in Burkina Faso, Nepal, and South Sudan.](#)" A [guidance note](#) provides recommendations and lessons learned from the roll out of the S-CORTs for SRH trainers, program managers, and coordinators.

¹ IAWG. *Reproductive Health in the Changing Humanitarian Context: Compendium of Key Findings from the IAWG on Reproductive Health in Crises' 2012-2014 Global Evaluation*. Available: <http://iawg.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IAWG-Global-Evaluation-2012-2014-1.pdf>