

CONTRACEPTION WITHIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE: ESSENTIAL. WANTED. NEEDED. POSSIBLE.



The sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls don't stop when emergencies strike – which is why **contraception is an essential part of any emergency health response.**

More than **32 million women and girls** of reproductive age worldwide require humanitarian assistance, inclusive of reproductive health and contraception.

Demand for contraception is present, and often increases during emergencies – a time when women and girls need it most.

The onset of crisis brings an increased risk of **unintended pregnancy, death or disability** during pregnancy and childbirth, and **unsafe abortion**.



As such, research shows that **up to 40% of women experiencing displacement** across diverse settings want to **avoid becoming pregnant** in the next two years.

Access to contraception helps ensure women and girls have the power to make autonomous decisions about their bodies and their futures.

From Bangladesh to the DRC and beyond, many programs are offering high quality, client-centered, contraceptive services, including long-acting methods, as part of emergency health response.

This should be the norm.

Since 2011, the combined efforts of CARE, the International Rescue Committee and Save the Children, with the support of the RAISE Initiative, have delivered contraceptive services, including long acting methods, to **more than 1 million women and girls** affected by crises.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

**MOVES WOMEN'S LIVES FORWARD,
BENEFITS THEIR FAMILIES,
AND POWERS PROGRESS FOR ALL.**

Protracted crises are the new normal.

Countries will not be able to meet the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and their **FP2020 commitments** without deliberate efforts to prepare and respond to these crises.

Ensuring universal access to contraception helps countries to **ACHIEVE NEARLY HALF OF THE**
17 SDGs

There is an urgent need for emergency responders, governments, and development actors to **collectively scale-up access** to contraception for women and girls affected by crises.



Today's crises are far reaching and long-lasting. Sustained engagement from diverse actors is required to address the reproductive needs of women and girls and **uphold their right to access contraception.**



INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP
ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN CRISES

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Emergencies is a broad-based, highly collaborative coalition of 20 Steering Committee member agencies – representing UN, government, non-governmental, research, and donor organizations. Formed in 1995, IAWG remains committed to advancing the sexual and reproductive health of people affected by conflict and natural disaster.