Table 1: UNFPA's Emergency Reproductive Health Kits

Kit 0: Administration/ training supplies
Kit 1: Condoms (A and B)
Kit 2: Clean delivery, individual (A and B)
Kit 3: Post rape treatment
Kit 4: Oral and injectable contraception
Kit 5: Treatment of STIs
Kit 6: Clinical delivery assistance (A and B)
Kit 7: 7 Intrauterine devices (IUDs)
Kit 8: Management of miscarriage and complications of abortion
Kit 9: Suture of tears (cervical and vaginal) and vaginal examination
Kit 10: Vacuum extraction delivery
Kit 11: Referral level kit for reproductive health (A and B)
Kit 12: Blood transfusion kit
Dignity Kit
Clean Delivery Kit
Newborn Kit
Emergency Birth Kit

Table 2: UNICEF's Pre-Packed Kits for Emergencies and Beyond

Integrated Emergency Health Kit 2017
Midwifery kit
Sterilization kit
Obstetric surgical kit
Large first aid kit for health worders
Newborn Kit
Nutrition kits
Wash & Dignity Kit

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

BSM

IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation

DATA MANAGEMENT AID

10. What are the opportunities for innovation?

Currently, most reproductive health kits are offered by donors or international organisations. There is an opportunity for national governments to develop kits with locally sourced medicines, supplies, equipment, and toolkits/guidelines. For example, the project led by the University of Leicester in collaboration with IPPF's South Asia Region Office, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Data Management Aid and the Directorate General of Family Planning of Bangladesh developed two locally sourced, low-budget kits:

- 'Facility RH Kit' for disaster-prone primary health facilities
- 'Crisis RH Kit' for crisis set-up where facilities are lacking

11. What are the Facility and Crisis RH Kits and its benefits?

Both Kits are designed for treating incomplete abortion, including septic and spontaneous abortion, and post-abortion care complications. These kits are tailored and context specific. They contain medicines, supplies and equipment that can be procured locally, and thus, keeping the costs low without compromising quality and efficiency of care. They can be positioned easily at flood or cyclone-prone primary health facilities and where services are lacking, especially in remote/hard-to-reach locations.

Copyright © 2021 By University of Leicester, IPPF, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, and Data Management Aid.

Suggested citation: Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D.M.J., Khan, S.T., Haseen, F., Bhuiyan, M. and Goswami, N. (2021) *Frequently Asked Questions on Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*. New Delhi: IPPF's South Asia Region Office.

Published by: IPPF's South Asia Region Office, New Delhi.

Reviewers: Professor Abbas Bhuiya (former Deputy Director icddr,b), Professor Peter Jackson (University of Leicester), Dr Murali Mohan Gopi Reddy (IPPF-SAR) and Dr Mousumi Mahafuza (IPPF-SAR).

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank the technical experts from DGFP, DGHS, OGSB, Ipas, FP2020, RHSTEP, FPAB, UNFPA, BAPSA, and Pathfinder in Bangladesh.

Frequently Asked Questions on Emergency Reproductive Health Kits

Authors:
Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett, Ms Denise Corsel, Dr Sumaiya Tasneem Prima, Dr Fariha Haseen, Mr Maqbul Bhuiyan and Ms Nimisha Goswami

Introduction

Reproductive health problems, including unsafe abortion, post-abortion complications and sepsis, are a leading cause of women's illness and deaths worldwide, especially in developing countries (DFID, 2014). This is largely due to the absence of, or limited access to, safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of reproductive health services. During disasters and humanitarian crises, these services are either non-existent or lacking in health workforces, medicines and supplies.

To overcome these challenges during disasters and crises, reproductive health kits are often pre-positioned, or administered impromptu, for service continuity. These kits come with essential components (medicines and supplies) in one package.

Reproductive health kits are life saving during disasters and crises (UNFPA, 2019). They ensure dignity of vulnerable women, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age caught up in refugee camps or cyclone-cum-flood shelters. However, despite the utility and usefulness of these kits, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and humanitarian actors (amongst others) are not fully aware of the number and varieties of reproductive health kits that are available, currently. This leaflet aims to address this gap by raising awareness around these kits and identifying opportunities for innovation by using the method of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Figure 1: Reproductive Health Kits

1. Do you know how many reproductive health-related kits are available globally for pregnant women and women of reproductive age?

There are 36 different reproductive health-related kits available worldwide (see **Figure 1**).

2. How many reproductive health kits are exclusively designed to be used in the context of an emergency, disaster, or humanitarian crisis?

Of the 36, 21 (58%) kits are exclusively designed to be used in the context of a disaster, emergency or humanitarian crisis.

3. Who are reproductive health kits aimed at?

During disasters and humanitarian crises, women and their newborns are higher at risk to morbidity and mortality (WHO, 2011). The majority of reproductive health kits are designed for women who are vulnerable and need reproductive health services. However, adolescents are also more vulnerable as they face a high risk of "exploitation, violence and transactional sex" and sexually transmitted infections among both sexes may spread more rapidly in emergencies (WHO, 2011). Therefore, specialised kits exist for post rape treatment and family planning methods (see **Table 1**).

4. How many health kits are designed for menstrual regulation and post-abortion care during disasters and crises?

Only two kits: UNFPA's Reproductive Health Kit (RH) 8 for the management of miscarriage and complications of abortion, and Sterimed Group's Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) Kit to assist with an incomplete miscarriage or the medical termination of a pregnancy.

5. Are you aware of WHO's kits, how many are available and their application?

Currently, WHO has 7 emergency health kits. Of which, only one kit, the Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), is relevant to reproductive health during emergencies. The contents of the kits are regularly reviewed and updated based on the needs in emergencies.

6. Are you aware of UNFPA's kits, how many are available and their application?

Currently, UNFPA has 17 reproductive health kits, including 13 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits for Crises (UNFPA, 2011) (see **Table 1**).

7. Are you aware of UNICEF's kits, how many are available and their application?

Currently, UNICEF has 21 kits. Of which, 8 are related to reproductive health services (see **Table 2**). These kits are pre-packed and customisable (UNICEF, 2020).

8. Are you aware of dignity kits, how many are available and their application?

There are several dignity kits, including UNFPA's Dignity Kit, UNICEF's Wash & Dignity Kit, Action Aid's Essentials Kit and Midwives for Haiti's Days for Girls Feminine Hygiene Kits. Dignity kits consist of "the basic items that women and girls need to protect themselves and maintain hygiene and respect in the face of natural disasters" (UNFPA, 2015).

9. What are the benefits of reproductive health kits?

The benefits include:

- Contains essential medicines and supplies, all in one package.
- Increases the provision and continuity of reproductive health services during disasters and crises.
- Remarkably contributes to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.
- Contributes towards the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), the Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, and the Sustainable Development Goal's target 5.6.