

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Summary Report 2018**

In the year 2018, IPPF South Asia Regional Office aimed primarily at integrating its humanitarian assistance initiatives into the core programming of the region in accordance with the IPPF Strategic Framework (2016-22). The regional efforts have been mainly aimed towards responding to all forms of crisis including conflict, natural disasters and protracted crises with support from its Member Associations (MAs) and partners. Through timely and effective delivery of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services as outlined in the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crisis, IPPF SARO has been working towards reducing avoidable mortality and morbidity during crisis situations. This year, IPPF SARO has put in special efforts towards disaster preparedness, risk reduction and advocacy for integration of SRHR in crisis into the national and local policies and programmes. Below mentioned is a quick snapshot from IPPF SARO's efforts in the targeted countries.



# PAKISTAN

As a part of Disaster Preparedness efforts from SARO, Pakistan Member Association, Rahnuma- FPAP has signed a MoU with Rescue 1122 of KPK province (an emergency service unit under KPK Province (Government of Pakistan) which manages crises, rescue and provide emergency medical services for Disaster Risk Reduction/ Preparedness and relief efforts in Pakistan.

FPAP has also conducted a MISP training on reproductive health in crisis for 34 Rescue 1122 staff.

IPPF SARO also supported FPAP to conduct a situational assessment on readiness for provision of services outlined under MISP among the Private Providers (PPs) in Punjab province. In Multan province, FPAP trained 34 PPs on MISP and provision of SRH services in crisis.

More than 100 community leaders, reproductive health coordinators, elected representatives of local government, field staff of health and population departments, teachers, staff from government departments of Health, Population Welfare, Disaster Management Authority and Social Welfare were trained on Community Preparedness for Reproductive Health and Gender under the humanitarian project funded by Women's Refugee Commission. Additionally, more than 400 community members were provided with community awareness sessions on SRH in crisis and role of community in DRR.

Apart from facilitating the national level Reproductive Health Working Group (RHWG) in crisis meetings, FPAP



has been actively contributing and conducting the provincial level RHWG meetings in KP and Punjab provinces.

IPPF SARO-FPAP was awarded by SATHI network in Bangkok on 25th September 2018, for its case study on Integration of Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) into the disaster risk reduction and preparedness action plans of provincial/district disaster management authorities in Pakistan at the Regional Humanitarian Learning Forum conducted by SATHI Network in coordination with Oxfam.





# MALDIVES

Under the JTF project on strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) and preparedness efforts in Maldives, the Inception Meeting of the project was held on the 15th of January 2018 in Male, Maldives. Apart from IPPF-SARO representatives, the meeting was attended by officials from Embassy of Japan in Maldives, Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency / Maldives, Ministry of Gender and Family, UNFPA Maldives, Maldivian Red Crescent, National Disaster Management Centre - Maldives, UNDP Maldives, UNICEF Maldives and World Health Organization South-East Asia Region - WHO SEARO. Also, as a part of the project, a desk review on contextualization of MISP has been completed along with a stakeholder's workshop. SHE, (member association in Maldives) has also now officially signed a MoU with UNFPA for integration of RH and Gender based violence as per MISP into the national disaster prevention and response plans of NDMA in Maldives. They are closely working on preparation of the MISP chapter for this inclusion.

SHE Maldives conducted a MISP ToT for 21 representatives from Government, UNFPA, Red cross and other organisations. IPPF SARO facilitated the agenda preparation, invitations, module finalisation etc.



Also, representatives from Japan Embassy were part of the opening and closing ceremony. 2nd phase of MISP ToT and provincial level trainings to be conducted during the end of December 2018 and January 2019.





# BANGLADESH

IPPF SARO, responded to the current Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh, through the provision of timely life saving sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls in the new settlements. In October 2017, IPPF-SARO with its core funds of 40,000 USD, designed a response for 6 months through establishing a static service delivery point “women friendly space”, near the hilly areas of Kutupalong expansion, Balukhali, Jummachary. Till April 2018, IPPF has reached out to more than 30, 000 people from the Rohingya community with services that include family planning methods, child and maternal health care and HIV/STI services, abortion, case management for survivors of sexual violence etc. IPPF SARO also trained all the emergency medical staff on MISP.

IPPF SARO has successfully completed the Innovations Project in Bangladesh, which had started in 2015, titled 'Addressing Opportunities and Challenges in accessing abortion services by women and girls affected by Humanitarian Crisis' across Bangladesh with the aim of improving access to life-saving MR (Menstrual Regulation) care services in humanitarian crises. The key partners of IPPF were University of Leicester as the Research partner, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (Icddr'b) as the implementing partner and Ipas and BAPSA for training of the health service providers.



Under this project, RH kit 8 (Management of Miscarriage and Complications of Abortion) was prepositioned in three Unions Sadar UHC, Daulatpur and Rajapur Family Welfare Centres (FWCs) and Union Health Centre (UHC) for provision of MR services. More than 100 service providers (Medical Officers, Nurse, FWVs, FWAs, Family planning inspectors etc) were trained on MR, PAC and administration of RH kit 8. Also, community awareness sessions were conducted in all the three unions with more than 400 young and adolescent girls and women. BCC materials such as bags and umbrellas were distributed with address of the nearby health clinic and messages on importance of SRH with the community and health workers.







# INDIA

Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) is currently responding to the Floods in Kerala and Karnataka. So far, more than 3500 people have been provided with SRH services which includes Family Planning, HIV testing, VDRL etc. FPAI has also distributed, 3246 Dignity Kits in the flood affected areas. 2nd phase of the response has been initiated from 1st November onwards, which includes community awareness sessions, dignity kits distribution and medical check-ups in the affected areas of Kerala and Karnataka. FPAI also facilitated and conducted MISP training for all the medical staff and youth volunteers from the Kerala response team. The training was conducted in partnership with SPHERE India network, health department and Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.

Under DRR and Preparedness initiatives, FPAI conducted community awareness sessions on SRH and First Aid in coordination with Red Cross and Panchayati Raj Institute in Puri District. MISP training



and Mock drill in collaboration with Red Cross on SRH/MISP for youth volunteers and service providers to be conducted during the end of December 2018 in coordination with Red Cross by FPAI Orissa Branch.





# IRAN

FHAI (Iran MA) completed an Institutional Assessment of SRH service provision in crisis setting in Kermanshah province of Iran (one of the most disaster affected province). 2nd phase of assessment has started from November 2018 onwards. Post Assessment community awareness sessions on disaster risk reduction and preparedness for SRHR in crises and GBV were conducted with the

community leaders, women groups from the

province. Also FHAI distributed hygiene kits containing sanitary napkins, under wears, combs, toothbrush etc to the women in reproductive age group and young and adolescent girls from Kermanshah province which was recently affected by an earthquake.



## SOME OF THE KEY PLATFORMS WHERE IPPF SARO SHARED ITS WORK

- International Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (ICFP 2018)- Poster Presentation
- Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR 2018)- Oral Presentation
- ECHO meeting on Elimination of Gender Based Violence in Crisis Setting, 2018- Oral Presentation
- Regional Humanitarian Forum 2018- Oral Presentation
- SPHERE network- Kerala Flood Response Dissemination Meeting

## PLANS FOR 2019:

- Implementing the initiatives under IPPF Business Plan for South Asia Region.
- Responding to Humanitarian Crisis both natural and conflict situations.
- Mobilising the support from Youth Volunteers for Emergency Response.
- To conduct MISP Trainings for the Service Providers.
- Facilitate Localization initiatives in Humanitarian Preparedness and response.



# STORIES FROM THE FIELD



*In the middle of the night, when the flood water came inside our house, thankfully our village ward members came right on time to rescue us. I just remember getting into the boat along with my mother and brother, after that I don't remember anything as there was chaos and commotion. We were taken to the community camp, where people from only our village were provided with shelter, food and other basic facilities. Camp was managed well but the major issue that we all girls faced was lack of sanitary napkins and even if we managed to get it, we didn't know where to dispose it off. We girls were very careful in terms of using the toilet at night as there were men around hence most of time, we tried not to use the toilet at all at night. That's when I realised how important it is for us women to feel safe and also our health needs are extremely critical especially during crisis situations like this one.*

*For this medical relief camp, the moment I got to know its for women and catering to our reproductive health needs I informed women from nearby villages as well to attend and get themselves checked up.*

**Anjana aged 20 is from Poovar, which is a tourist village in Neyyattinkara in the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala state, South India. IPPF had conducted medical relief camps in the village as a part of IPPF's Kerala Flood response initiative.**