



Including sexual and reproductive health care in emergency responses is crucial for the overall well-being of persons surviving crises, especially women and girls

New programme will deliver essential health services following crises

Launch at Parliament House, Canberra, Monday 18 February 12:00 pm,
with Mr Bob McMullan MP

**Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance
and**

Dr Tran Nguyen Toan	Medical and Technical Programme Manager International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF ESEAOR) East and Southeast Asia and Oceania Region
Dr Wilma Doedens	Senior Global Technical Officer United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Dr Anna Whelan	Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales (UNSW)

A comprehensive programme that will reduce disability and death associated with sexual and reproductive ill health after natural disasters and conflicts will be introduced in the East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Overseas Development Assistance, Mr Bob McMullan, will launch the new AusAID funded \$3 million programme.

The 3-year initiative, "Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme in Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations in East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific" (SPRINT) will be coordinated by the International Planned Parenthood Federation for the East, Southeast Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF ESEAOR) in partnership with UNFPA, the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA).

Including sexual and reproductive health care in emergency responses is crucial for the overall well-being of persons surviving crises, especially women and girls. Research has shown that, pregnancy and childbirth related complications are the most common causes of death and disability amongst women in many situations of forced displacement.

The key element of the SPRINT Initiative, managed by IPPF in association with UNFPA, will be to increase the regional capacity of organizations to deliver the "Minimum Initial Service Package" (MISP) for reproductive health in crisis situations. This package includes a set of priority interventions to be implemented in the early phases of a natural disaster or conflict in order to reduce injuries and deaths of women and children. It aims to reduce excessive mother and newborn deaths and disability, decrease transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, prevent sexual violence and provide care and support to survivors.

The SPRINT Initiative will also strengthen coordination of stakeholders involved in sexual and reproductive health care, raise awareness of the importance of service provision, and enhance access of persons affected by crises to such services. The University of NSW will assist with information and research. ARHA will play an advocacy role in Australia.

Information interviews Jane Singleton, ARHA, 0411 013 269 or 02 6249 6566
**Launch: noon Monday 18 February - Conference Room A - Parliamentary Library
Parliament House, Canberra**