BACKGROUND

Summer 2014 will be remembered for the various humanitarian crises which flared up around the world. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially those of women and children, have been endangered in all these crises but this is often under reported by the media. The vast majority of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees are women and children, including women who are pregnant or lactating. Those pregnant women unfortunate enough to give birth while fleeing their homes have little chance of a medically assisted, or even a clean delivery. Many of these crisis regions already have a high rate of maternal mortality but this rises sharply during upheaval as women are exposed to trauma, malnutrition, disease and violence. Sexual violence also spikes at these times and family planning supplies and services are hard to come by, leading to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies. Despite health facilities having special protections under international humanitarian law, hospitals are regularly damaged and destroyed during military conflicts. This has a long-term impact in hampering the provision of medical services for months and years to come.

IN ALL REGIONS, WOMEN CONTINUE TO GET PREGNANT AND HAVE BABIES DURING CRISIS AND EMERGENCIES. VIOLENCE OFTEN INCREASES AS HEALTH AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES ARE DISRUPTED

- Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director

GAZA

46,000 women pregnant, 10,000 of these are displaced

SYRIA

200,000 pregnant women in need of urgent care

NORTHERN IRAQ

60,000 pregnant women in need of urgent care

This Intelligence Brief deals with the recent humanitarian crises in Gaza, Northern Iraq, Syria, Ukraine and West Africa. Each case is analysed under the following headings: background to the crisis, scale of the crisis, impact on health, impact on women and SRHR and impact on children. The document goes on to look at practical actions that can be taken to protect sexual and reproductive health rights in times of humanitarian emergency. The statistics quoted throughout are up to date as of 1 September 2014.

GAZA

BACKGROUND TO THE CRISIS

The murder of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank in June and of a Palestinian young man in East Jerusalem at the beginning of July sparked a new episode in the long-running conflict between Israel and Gaza.1 The Israeli army (IDF) began the so-called “Operation Protective Edge” in the Gaza Strip, an extensive air and naval operation with the stated goal of stopping Palestinian rocket fire, the building of tunnels and to generally disable Hamas’ military capabilities.2 After almost two months of hostilities, a cease-fire was brokered by the Egyptian Government.

Medics carry Palestinian boys injured during an airstrike in Gaza City’s al-Shifa hospital on July 11, 2014. Photo: UNICEF/El Baba

SCALE OF THE CRISIS

The two months of hostilities have been the bloodiest and most destructive in the last 40 years of this conflict. According to UN agency OCHA, more than 2,000 Palestinians and 70 Israelis have been killed, most of them civilians, of whom almost 500 are children and 250 women. The Palestinian Ministry of Health reports that more than 10,000 Palestinians have been wounded, including more than 3,000 children and almost 2,000 women. The number of Palestinian IDPs is estimated at 475,000, one quarter of Gaza’s population. Over 100,000 Palestinians had their homes either rendered uninhabitable or destroyed. The issuing of evacuation warnings and the designation of forbidden areas by Israel is thought to have contributed to the high number of IDPs. Much of the infrastructure of Gaza has been severely damaged, including 220 schools, of which 22 were completely destroyed.

IMPACT ON HEALTH

Hospitals in Gaza were ill-equipped to deal with the crisis and soon began facing severe shortages of various categories of medicine, medical supplies, and fuel. Since the conflict began on 7 July, WHO estimates that 15 out of the area’s 32 hospitals have been damaged, of which six were forced to close. In addition, 18 primary health clinics and 29 ambulances have been damaged.

GAZA

160 women give birth every day
10,000 pregnant women were displaced at the height of the crisis

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND SRHR

As of August 7, UNFPA estimated that nearly 46,000 women in Gaza were pregnant, with 10,000 of them displaced. The Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that about 160 deliveries take place in Gaza every day. Many maternity clinics and private maternity centres were forced to close, while maternity beds in other facilities were often used to serve the wounded. Therefore a large portion of these births took place in very difficult conditions.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Children compose about half the population of Gaza. Of these, more than 480 children have been killed in air-strikes and shelling. More than 2,900 children have been injured, often resulting in life-long disability, and more than 50,000 were made homeless. On 11 August UNICEF reported that at least 373,000 children required specialised psychosocial support on account of having experienced death, injury or loss of home.

SYRIA

BACKGROUND TO THE CRISIS

The on-going three-year civil war in Syria between the forces of President Bashar Al-Assad and his opponents, which started in March 2011 when security forces killed people who were demonstrating against the arrest of young people, has left the country in ruins. Peace talks in Geneva in 2012 and 2014 between the Syrian government and the Syrian National Coalition, which itself is in turmoil, achieved little.

SCALE OF THE CRISIS

More than 191,300 Syrians were killed between March 2011 - April 2014. Around 90,000 of these were killed between July 2013 and April 2014, which illustrates the escalation of the conflict. As of August 26, UNFPA estimated that 10.8 million Syrians are in need. The number of Syrians internally displaced is estimated at 6.4 million, one third of the population and the largest group of IDPs in the world. Over three million Syrians, three

9 UNICEF Report State of Palestine (11 August 2014)
10 “Syrian conflict: the background and the current situation on the ground” (Euronews, 13 June 2013)
11 What is the Geneva II conference on Syria?” (BBC News Middle East, 22 January 2014)
12 Syrian civil war death toll rises to more than 191,300, according to UN (The Guardian, 22 August)
13 Needs of Syrian refugees grow as crisis escalates in Iraq (UNFPA, 26 August 2014)
14 Syria Crisis Factsheet (ECHO, 29 August 2014)
out of four of whom are women and children, have sought refuge in neighboring countries. The UN has declared the humanitarian crisis in Syria a “Level 3 Emergency,” the highest-level emergency designation.

**SYRIA**

60% of hospitals have been destroyed

**IMPACT ON HEALTH**
The intensity of the conflict in Syria has had a devastating impact on health. The European Commission estimates that some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to the severe shortage of medicines and healthcare workers. Indeed, more than 60% of the hospitals have been destroyed, seven out of ten health centers are either damaged or unusable and half of all doctors have left the country. WHO considers that more than 600,000 people have been injured, the majority of whom will have a life-long disability, and that once-eradicated infections such as polio and leishmaniasis have reappeared. Measles, typhoid, hepatitis and H1N1 are also spreading amongst the population.

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15 UNFPA REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT FOR SYRIA CRISIS, Issue No. 24, Period covered: 1 - 31 August 2014
16 Needs of Syrian refugees grow as crisis escalates in Iraq (UNFPA, 26 August 2014)
17 Syria Crisis: ECHO Factsheet (DG ECHO, 8 August)
18 Syria Crisis: ECHO Factsheet (DG ECHO, 8 August)
19 The Impact of the Syrian Crisis on the Public Healthcare System (Syrian American Medical Society, 24 June)
20 The Impact of the Syrian Crisis on the Public Healthcare System (Syrian American Medical Society, 24 June)
21 Syria polio outbreak adds burden to an already damaged health system (WHO, 5 March)
22 Needs of Syrian refugees grow as crisis escalates in Iraq (UNFPA, 26 August 2014)
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27 Syria polio outbreak adds burden to an already damaged health system (WHO, 5 March)
NORTHERN IRAQ

BACKGROUND TO THE CRISIS
Three years after the U.S. left the country, Iraq finds itself in a state of crisis. The unexpected appearance of the Jihadist Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) has brought the Middle Eastern country into violence and chaos. Since mid-June ISIS has taken control of major cities in the northern part of the country, including Mosul. ISIS has spread terror with beheadings, crucifixions, enslavement, rape, and persecuting minorities like the Yazidi.24

SCALE OF THE CRISIS
According to the European Commission, the number of Iraqis becoming internally displaced in the first half of this year is estimated at 1.45 million. Over 1.13 million Iraqis were previously displaced.25 The increased violence has led almost 200,000 people to flee to Dohuk from Sinjar District, but WHO reports that some 50,000 people, mostly women and children, would be trapped on Sinjar mountain.26 On 14 August UN officials declared the humanitarian crisis in Iraq a “Level 3 Emergency,” the highest-level emergency designation.27 The UK-based Iraq Body Count project puts civilian deaths in 2014 at 8,266.28

NORTHERN IRAQ
250,000 Women and girls are in need of urgent care

IMPACT ON HEALTH
Hospitals in Iraq have been affected by shortages of staff and basic supplies and are ill-equipped to deal with the crisis.29 The risk of getting diseases such as measles, polio, tuberculosis and meningitis has soared. Illnesses associated with with poor water and hygiene – such as diarrhea, hepatitis A and worm infection – are also on the rise.30 The only hospital in Sinjar has closed and the WHO estimates that 16 out of 19 primary health centers in the province have shut.31

SINJAR PROVINCE
16 out of 19 Primary health centres have shut

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND SRHR
As UNFPA reports, a quarter of a million of Iraqi women and girls are in need of urgent care, 60,000 of whom are pregnant. Some 35 pregnant women face life-threatening complications every day. Reports consider that around 20,000 women and girls are highly exposed to sexual violence.32 The United Nations reports that sexual violence, including rape, is widespread in regions under ISIS control. It is believed that ISIS could have forced into sexual slavery around 1,500 Yazidi and Christian women.33

24 “Syria- Iraq: The Islamic State militant group” (BBC News Middle East, 2 August 2014)
25 Iraq: ECHO Factsheet (DG ECHO, 27 August)
26 Iraq crisis. Situation report no. 8 (WHO, 4–14 August)
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WHO%20Iraq%20Situation%20Report%20no%208%20-%202004-14%20August%202014.%20FINAL.pdf
27 Highest-level of emergency declared in Iraq (UNFPA, 19 August)
28 UN Security Council Monthly Forecast (July 2014)
29 see ref.24
30 Call for International Support in Kurdistan: Health a Priority (Kurdish regional government – Directorate General of Health, 19 August)
http://duhokhealth.org/en/node/3468
31 see ref.25
32 Women, Girls Face Escalating Risk of Violence, Exploitation during Iraq Crisis, Warns UNFPA (UNFPA, 30 June)
33 Barbaric’ sexual violence perpetrated by Islamic State militants in Iraq (UN News Centre, 13 August)
ATROCIOUS ACCOUNTS OF ABDUCTION AND DETENTION OF YAZIDI, CHRISTIAN, AS WELL AS TURKMEN AND SHABAK WOMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS, AND REPORTS OF SAVAGE RAPES, ARE REACHING US IN AN ALARMING MANNER.

- Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the UN SG on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Nickolay Mladenov, the Special Representative of the UNSG for Iraq

IMPACT ON HEALTH
Many health care facilities in the regions with IDPs cannot provide services for this population. As of 4 September, at least 40,745 registered IDPs (18,721 children) received primary and emergency health care. Among them, 8,151 people were hospitalized, including 3,406 children.39

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND SRHR
A large portion of the IDPs are women, many of whom are pregnant.40 These are in need of family planning services and supplies and access to maternity services. As in all conflicts, women are at risk of sexual violence, including rape.

DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS
117 Schools have been completely or partially destroyed

IMPACT ON CHILDREN
At least 28 children have been killed and at least 58 have been injured. As of 8 August, there were 28,725 children registered as internally displaced. The school year has been postponed until 1 October in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk, where 117 schools are either completely or partially destroyed. This date is tentative, dependent on the conflict.41 A UNICEF survey of children in Donetsk region found that a very high proportion of them had witnessed a traumatic event. 42

7,640 wounded in eastern Ukraine as of 3 September. An estimated 3.9 million people are living in areas directly affected by violence as of 15 August. There are 259,741 IDPs as of 1 September, 75 percent of whom come from the Eastern regions. At least 338,275 people have fled to neighboring countries, mainly to Russia.38

IMPACT ON CHILDREN
Children, especially girls, are suffering human rights violations, including rape and sexual abuse. It is reported that hundreds of girls could have been forced to get married. Over two days in early August, 40 Yazidi children were killed in a jihadist attack in the Sinjar region, according to UNICEF.34 There is evidence of children being used as fighters.35

UKRAINE
BACKGROUND TO THE CRISIS
Ukraine’s on-going conflict is the bloodiest and most dangerous in Europe since the war in Yugoslavia. The conflict was sparked by the ousting of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych after demonstrations against his refusal to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.36 Following Russia’s annexation of Crimea, the actions of pro-Russian separatists in the Eastern regions of the country escalated to civil war and splitting the international community into two: while the US and EU back up Kiev’s current government, Russia is supporting eastern separatists.37

SCALE OF THE CRISIS
Severe escalation of conflict and intensification of heavy fighting recent months is resulting in the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, causing more civilian casualties and IDPs. At least 2,905 people have been killed and

34 http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/08/05/Fourty-children-killed-north-of-Iraq.html
35 Matters of Life and Death, BBC From Our Own Correspondent http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04g6kqt
38 Ukraine: OCHA Situation report No.10 as of 5 September 2014 http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sitrep%2010_Ukraine.pdf
42 Violence in Eastern Ukraine taking a heavy toll on children: UNICEF Assessment (1 July)
WEST AFRICA

BACKGROUND TO THE CRISIS
The first cases of the current ebola outbreak appeared in south-eastern Guinea in December 2013 and quickly spread to neighbouring countries.43 Containing the virus has posed great difficulties and it has become the most severe outbreak in terms of cases and deaths since the discovery of ebola in 1976.44

SCALE OF THE CRISIS
UNFPA reports that more than 2,600 people have been infected, of whom 1,400 have died. Liberia and Sierra Leone are the two worst affected countries – the virus is present in twelve out of thirteen districts in Sierra Leone. Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria has also seen many deaths.45 The World Bank reports that Guinea and Liberia’s economies are in a worrying state and has predicted a fall of one point in Guinea’s GDP.46

IMPACT ON HEALTH
Health systems in most affected countries have been put under severe strain.47 As of end of August, WHO estimated that hospitals were facing severe shortage of medicines and only one or two doctors would be available to treat 100,000 people.48 In addition, the virus has killed several health workers and many are now unwilling to risk their lives by treating patients. This has a knock-on effect for other functions carried out by such as malaria treatment and maternity services.49

LIBERIA
3 out of 4 ebola fatalities are women

SIERRA LEONE
3 out of 5 ebola fatalities are women

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND SRHR
UN Women reports that three out of five ebola fatalities in Sierra Leone are women, while this number rises to three out of four in Liberia. Female nurses represent the majority of the health staff who have been infected and died from the virus.50 The crisis has put a drain on healthcare facilities, equipment and personnel - drawing already scarce resources away from pregnant women.51

THE LACK OF ACCESS BY WOMEN, ESPECIALLY PREGNANT WOMEN, TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IS A MAJOR HEALTH DISASTER IN WAITING.

- John K. Mulbah, chairman of the obstetrics and gynaecology department, University of Liberia

43 “Epidemiological update: Outbreak of Ebola virus disease in West Africa” (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 14 May 2014)
44 “Outbreaks Chronology: Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 24 June 2014)
45 Liberia’s Ebola outbreak leaves pregnant women stranded (UNFPA, 26 August)
46 Ebola crisis: The economic impact (BBC, 20 August)
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
50 Ebola outbreak takes its toll on women (UN Women, 2 September)
IMPACT ON CHILDREN
Children are an easy target for the virus. Not only is ebola impacting children's health, but on their education too: the Liberian government announced the closure of all schools. At least 150 children in Sierra Leone have lost parents to the virus. Children who have lost parents and family members may be left without appropriate care. Children affected by ebola are often stigmatized and isolated by their community and there are reports of parents being too scared to properly care for infected children.

52 West Africa-Ebola Outbreak. Factsheet 1
http://www.usaid.gov/ebola/fy14/fs01
53 Children Orphaned by Ebola Miss Parents’ Last Words (4 September)
54 Save the Children Escalating Its Response to Ebola Crisis (5 September 2014)
http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/EBOLA_FACT_SHEET_09072014.PDF
PRACTICAL RESPONSES

MINIMUM INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE (MISP)

The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health (RH) is a coordinated set of priority activities to be implemented at the onset of every humanitarian crisis. It is designed to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence; reduce HIV transmission; prevent excess maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality; and plan for comprehensive RH services. Additional priority activities of the MISP include making contraceptives available to meet demand, syndromic treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and ensuring antiretrovirals (ARVs) for continuing users. It forms the starting point for sexual and reproductive health programming and should be sustained and built upon with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services throughout protracted crises and recovery.55

The MISP was drafted together by the Inter Agency Working Group on reproductive health in crises (IAWG) - a broad based coalition representing UN, government, non-governmental, research, and donor organizations.

Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health

Objective 1
Ensure health cluster/sector identifies agency to LEAD implementation of MISP
- RH Officer in place
- Meetings to discuss RH implementation held
- RH Officer reports back to health cluster/sector
- RH kits and supplies available & used

Objective 2
Prevent SEXUAL VIOLENCE & assist survivors
- Protection system in place especially for women & girls
- Medical services & psychosocial support available for survivors
- Community aware of services

Objective 3
Reduce transmission of HIV
- Safe and rational blood transfusion in place
- Standard precautions practiced
- Free condoms available

Objective 4
Prevent excess MATERNAL & NEWBORN morbidity & mortality
- Emergency obstetric and newborn care services available
- 24/7 referral system established
- Clean delivery kits provided to birth attendants and visibly pregnant women
- Community aware of services

Objective 5
Plan for COMPREHENSIVE RH services, integrated into primary health care
- Background data collected
- Sites identified for future delivery of comprehensive RH
- Staff capacity assessed and trainings planned
- RH equipment and supplies ordered

55 http://iawg.net/resources2013/misp-implementation/
KIT FOR CLEAN DELIVERY OF BABY
This kit provides basic items essential for preventing fatal infections during the delivery of a baby. It includes a bar of soap, a clear plastic sheet to lie on, a razor blade for cutting the umbilical cord, a sterilized umbilical cord tie, a cloth to keep the mother and baby warm and latex gloves.  

DIGNITY KIT
A Dignity Kit aims to provide pregnant and lactating women and girls with the necessary items to fulfill their basic needs.

The five items commonly included in these kits are: maternity napkins, underwear, bath soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. A number of other hygiene items are also added after identifying them in consultation with affected women and girls: shampoo, laundry bar, toilet paper, underwear, bath towel, slippers, comb, and nail clippers.

WHAT CAN PARLIAMENTARIANS DO?
1. Draw attention to the disproportionate impact of humanitarian crises on SRHR, women and children in parliamentary debates and in the media.
2. Heed calls for funding form the international community. Prioritise funding for women, children and SRHR.
3. Consider the long-term impact of health infrastructure rebuilding and the need for psychological support for those impacted.


ANNEX I. TABLE OF STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale of the humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Gaza</th>
<th>Syria</th>
<th>Northern Iraq</th>
<th>West Africa / Ebola</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>475,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</td>
<td>10.8 million Syrians in need of aid</td>
<td>Up to 1,45 million people displaced in 2014 (over 1.15 million in previous years)</td>
<td>More than 2,600 cases in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria</td>
<td>At least 2,900 people have been killed and 7,640 wounded in eastern Ukraine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 2,000 Palestinians killed, of whom almost 500 are children and 250 are women. 70 Israelis killed.</td>
<td>An estimated 3.4 million people (roughly one third of the population) are internally displaced, the largest number in the world. The majority of IDPs have been displaced several times and although initial displacements were directly linked to violence and insecurity.</td>
<td>Over 8,000 civilians have died this year.</td>
<td>More than 1,400 died, most of them in Sierra Leone. 12 out 15 districts in Sierra Leone are now affected by ebola.</td>
<td>Around 3.5 million people are living in areas directly affected by violence. There are some 260,000 IDPs, 75% of whom come from the Eastern regions. 338,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries, mainly to Russia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 10,000 Palestinians, including more than 3,000 children and almost 2,000 women have been injured.</td>
<td>191,300 Syrians were killed between March 2011-April 2014. Around 90,000 of these were killed between July 2013-April 2014.</td>
<td>Est 200,000 people from Sinjar district have fled to Dohuk. 50,000 people, mostly women and children and elderly, are trapped on Sinjar mountain.</td>
<td>Total cost of UN World Food Programme emergency operations in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia is 70 million USD.</td>
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<td>Over 100,000 people had their homes destroyed or severely damaged.</td>
<td>3.3 Million Syrian Refugees, of which 75% are women and children.</td>
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<td>220 schools (142 government, 75 UNRWA schools and four private schools) are in need of repair, including 25 schools which were completely destroyed.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Impact on Children</th>
<th>Gaza</th>
<th>Syria</th>
<th>Northern Iraq</th>
<th>West Africa / Ebola</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 573,000 children require specialized psychosocial support. Children are showing symptoms of increasing distress, including bed wetting, clinging to parents and nightmares.</td>
<td>Before the conflict began nine out of ten Syrian children were immunized against polio and measles. This number has now decreased to seven out of ten, leaving around half million children unprotected against the disease.</td>
<td>Children, especially girls, are suffering human rights violations, including rape and sexual abuse. It is reported that hundreds of girls could have been forced to get married.</td>
<td>The Government of Liberia previously announced measures, including the closure of all schools.</td>
<td>At least 28 children have been killed and at least 50 have been injured. 28,725 children are registered as internally displaced. The school year has been postponed until 1 October in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, where 17 schools are either completely or partially destroyed. UNICEF survey in Donetsk region found that a very high proportion of children had witnessed a traumatic event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children compose about half the population of Gaza. Of these, more than 450 children have been killed in air-strikes and shelling.</td>
<td>Millions of children have sustained deep psychological problems, including nightmares and bed wetting.</td>
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<td>More than 2,900 children have been injured, often resulting in life-long disability, and more than 90,000 were made homeless.</td>
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### Impact on Women and SRHR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Gaza</th>
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<th>Northern Iraq</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45,000 women in Gaza were pregnant, with 10,000 of them displaced. The Palestine Ministry of Health reported that about 360 deliveries take place in Gaza every day. Urgent need to strengthen preventative measures to protect women and children against violence and sexual abuse while they are displaced.</td>
<td>Almost 200,000 pregnant women in need of urgent care. 54,000 Syrian women have been put at greater risk of suffering from gender-based violence. Many pregnant women suffer psychological difficulties, gynaecological problems, nutritional shortages and complications from early pregnancies</td>
<td>550,000 women and girls, including at least 20,000 pregnant women, are in need of urgent care. Some 35 pregnant women face life-threatening complications every day. Reports consider that around 23,000 women and girls are highly exposed to sexual violence. Sexual violence and rapes by ISIS on minorities under its control</td>
<td>Three out of five Ebola fatalities in Sierra Leone are women, while this number rises to three out of four in Liberia. Female nurses represent the majority of the health staff who have been infected and died from the virus.</td>
<td>A large portion of the 500,000 IDPs are women, many of whom are pregnant.</td>
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### Impact of Health

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Gaza</th>
<th>15 out of Gaza’s 32 hospitals have been damaged, of which six were forced to close. In addition, 18 primary health clinics and 29 ambulances have been damaged</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>200,000 died due to NCDS (600,000 life-long disabilities) (amputations, burns, etc.) Health Infrastructure: 90% hospitals destroyed. 70% of health centres are either damaged or out of service. 50% of all physicians have fled country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services affected by shortages of staff and basic supplies. High risk of measles, polio, tuberculosis and meningitis outbreaks. High risk of water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases (diarrhoea, hepatitis A, typhoid, etc.). Possible outbreaks of measles, polio, cholera as well as tuberculosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO estimates that in the three hardest-hit countries only 1.2 doctors available to treat 100,000 people. Disease has killed many people working to care for infected people, making it hard to combat the virus</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 49,745 registered IDPs (18,721 children) received primary and emergency health care. Among them, 6,151 people were hospitalised, including 3,406 children. The Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) was launched on 14 August, requesting US$3.3 million for immediate lifesaving needs. As of 22 August, US$ 6.2 million has been received. (OCHA)</td>
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**Note:** The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) is an independent network of All-Party Parliamentary Groups from around Europe. Our members are politicians who are committed to improving the reproductive rights and health of women around the world.