



Kenya Lays Foundation for Minimum Initial Service Package

Nairobi, 03 August 2018 – Kenya experiences cyclic natural disasters and emergencies attributed to natural and man-made triggers. Natural disasters have included epidemics, droughts, floods, landslides, and human and animal disease outbreaks, among others. The Government declared drought a national disaster in early 2016, with 23 of 47 counties affected. Hardly had the drought receded when floods hit the country, leading to displacement of 311,164 people and 183 deaths.

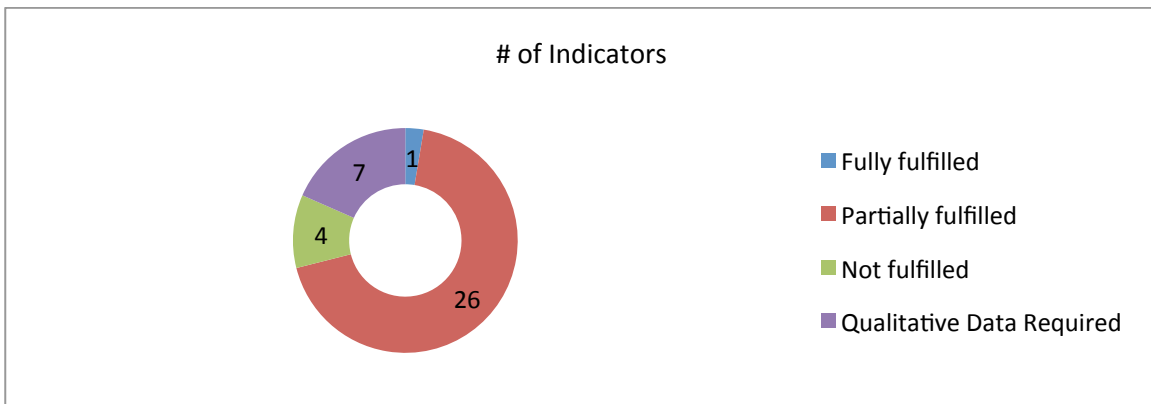
During the 2007-2008 election crisis, the country recorded 1,133 deaths and widespread mass displacements of over 350,000 people in the cities and rural areas. Though on a comparatively minimal scale, a similar scenario was experienced during the 2017 election period spanning party primaries and the main presidential and parliamentary elections. Kenya continues to host huge number of refugees currently estimated at 468,910 (229,999 female and 238,911 male) in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps due to protracted conflicts and instability in the Greater Horn of Africa region.

A recent study (2018) jointly conducted by UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNAIDS and the Government of Kenya showed that the 2017 drought heightened malnutrition indices for children and adults living with HIV. UNFPA's rapid GBV assessment in the wake of the 2007-08 violence established that the absence of coordination bodies for addressing sexual violence at the provincial or district levels, insufficient training of health care providers within health facilities, and inaccessible GBV related counseling services were some of the factors that aggravated the situation for survivors.

To prevent and mitigate disastrous effects when emergencies and disaster occurs in future, UNFPA collaborated with the Government of Kenya, UN agencies, NGOs and other actors in the humanitarian sector and undertaken a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) Readiness Assessment. The gist of the assessment was to:

- Identify laws and policies relevant to emergency situations in Kenya;
- Establish the level of human resource capacity and service delivery preparedness for MISP interventions during emergencies in Kenya;
- Establish the presence and capacity of coordination structures and institutions for MISP interventions during emergencies in Kenya;
- Establish the availability of information and data collection systems for MISP interventions during emergencies in Kenya.

During the two-day workshop event that was preceded by a preparatory meeting, UNFPA and partners analyzed Kenya's MISP readiness based on 38 indicators spanning coordination, prevention of sexual violence and assistance to survivors, reduction of HIV transmission and meeting STI needs, prevention of excess maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity, and planning for comprehensive RH services integrated into primary health care. On average, the assessment findings showed that the country is partially prepared for MISP. The single fully fulfilled indicator is on "integration of SRH indicators within existing health information systems (HIS)."



Based on the findings, Kenya needs to strengthen data on the number and type of medical and non-medical personnel trained in MISP at national and sub-national levels. Documentation of the number, type and capacities of existing medical and non-medical structures and networks involved in prevention and response to sexual violence at national and sub-national levels also emerged as a glaring gap in the country. Equally, urgent is the need to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms between health and other sectors stakeholders to reduce HIV transmission and meet STI needs, and implement priority maternal and newborn health services in crises from the onset of an emergency.



“The MISP Readiness Assessment is a giant leap towards revealing and addressing gaps that have always become evident whenever disaster struck in the past. Through this initiative, UNFPA and partners are positioned to prevent and mitigate the impact of emergencies and humanitarian occurrences on the SRH, FP and protection needs of women and girls,” said the UNFPA Assistant Representative, Judith Kunyihya, as she lauded the resourcefulness of Government and CSOs partners during the two-day workshop.

Picture 1: Session during MISP Readiness Assessment Workshop for Kenya

The UNFPA Deputy Representative, Dr Ezizgeldi Hellenov, emphasized that the MISP Readiness Assessment feedback should be embraced as a living document that is improved upon continuously. Dr Ezizgeldi exuded confidence that interventions based on the findings of would forestall the widespread vulnerability witnessed in the past whenever disaster engulfed the country. He implored partners to own the results of the assessment and prioritize actions that tremendously reduce the vulnerability of the country.

After participating in the two-day workshop, the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) assured UNFPA and partners of the Government's support in implementing the findings of the assessment. "This exercise has given us the appropriate radar for understanding and addressing emergencies in the country. NCPD is pleased to have been part of the process and will strive to ensure appropriate strategies are developed to improve preparedness for disasters and emergencies in Kenya," said Mariam Adan, the NCPD Population Programme Officer, as she officially closed the workshop.



Picture 2: Group Photo Taken at the End of the MISP Readiness Assessment Workshop for Kenya at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi.