**Questionnaire**

Concept/definition of crisis

1. Please provide information on the legal and policy framework used by your State to manage situations of crisis and on how the concept of “crisis” has been defined or framed.
2. Please list the type of situations that would fit the concept of “crisis” in your State and indicate what situations are excluded.
3. What institutional mechanisms are in place for managing a crisis and how are priorities determined

*Afghanistan is in state of conflict since 1979 and in the past four decdades, parties to the conflict have changed, but the violation of human rights continues to this day. In such a situation (crisis), the vast majorty of the state’s budget is allocated and going to the war and conflict and its associated matters.Therefore, a portion of national budget is allocated and spent on the social services. Since, Afghanistan economically is very much dependant on the contribution of donors, and it in its own turn, causes serious social and polictial crisis. During the conflict all the social infrastructure was destroyed and the need was huge in this regards.*

*In such a situation, lack of security, lack of rule of law, good governance, continuation of serious and gross human rights violations, lack of access to justice, corruption and nepotism will continue. We witness loss of lives of an average of 30 to 50 person per day. Particulary when there is no news of good governance, no rule of law and in addition to that, the government doesn’t have the capacity to meet citizen’s need and requirments.*

Challenges and good practices

1. Please highlight any challenges faced in the provision of SRH services and good practices in ensuring women’s and girls’ SRHR in situations of crisis, including, for example, measures concerning timely access to the the following types of services and aspects of care:
2. *There is no access to quality social services without discrimination. On the provision of information to the people and citizens, there is not enough work has been done. The government have established a commission on access to information, but it still doesn’t have an address and yet to establish itself as an institution. Although the MoPH is publishing some material related to health but the reproductive health part is not enough. I believe one of the problem is large quantity of need in every section of health .*
3. *Access to trained health and medical female staff in most of the remot parts of the country is very much restricted to few. This is because there is no trained female staff in remote areas, specially in the areas that are contrlloed by the insurgents and Taliban. Though there is a significant amount of nurses, midwives and traditional birth attendants have been graduated, but due to the lack of support mechanisms, they are facing lots of other challenges and most importantly, there is not enough support and adequate of monitoring of their work and activities.*
4. *Lack of acess to equipmint, medicine, and utnesils, makes if difficult to provide quality health services. Again is it was mentioned that the need is huge in the country.*
5. *On the HIV/AIDS and other STD prevention, there is not enough awareraising and out reach programs as well as not much attention is being paid, particularly this year, due to the pandemic of COVID-19 diseasis, all attention is focused to address the pandemic of CoronaVirus. Prevention programs is relatively better in the big cities.*
6. *Access to the pregnancy health is much better in the cities as the private sector is also very active in providing such services, but ufortantely, poors and needy couldn’t access such a services. Since, moajority of the women in Afghanistan is not literate, and they don’t have any idea and thughts about it. Those women who are educated and literate, unfortunately, they don’t have enough information about it. It is because there is not much education either at school or at the university. Talking on such issues in public is considered Taboo due to the condervative mentality. Even though some insititutins recently start to talk about these issues, but not enough.*
7. *According to the reports of the ministry f public health, 20 % of women have access to contraception. But in relation to the emergency contraception, there is no public information available. Though, there are few ads running in the TV on the distance between children and contraception, but it is very limited which is not enough for the population of entire country. Since, information on the family planning issues and programs is much better among the educated families, but, they still don’t have enough and accurate information on such issues. There is not enough information on the modern and new techniques of contraception.*
8. *Abortion is an illegal practice in Afghanistan. only in such a situation, that the mother’s health is at risk, it is done. Since the administrative and legal process of it, is so long and time consuming, most of the women dare to adopt illegal and unsafe methods of abortionwhich is the case in most of the underdeveloped countries. .*
9. *Fortunately, there are few such facilties that could address and treat pregnancy related morbidities such as Visico-Vaginal and Visico-Anal fistula, but is only limited for the capital city and big cities , few hospitals that have such speciality.but for women in rural areas some time accessabitities are very limited .*
10. *To the best of my knowledge there is not such a facility to screen, diagnose and traet reproductive cancers, although some hospitals dose the screening for brest cancer , but not much for cervical cancers. Women are forced to travel and seek treatment in the neighbouring countries. As we do not radio therapy facilities in the country yet.*
11. *As stated above, talking in public on the menstrations it taboo. Menstration hygiene products are available at the cities, but in the rural areas, due to poverty and lack of information, it is not available. In the rural and remote areas of the country, menstration causes droput of the girls from schools. In addition, since there is not enough awareness on the personal hygiene and hygienic products in remote and rural areas, infectious diseases are on the rise. Some young women and girls have now started to take this issue and have talk on it.*
12. *Ministry of Public health in close cooperation with UNFPA, have started addressing GBV issues and provide some services such as medical intervention, mental health care and psycho social suppor for the victims and survivors of GBV. This program is run in 22 province of Afghanistan. It is better then not having any , but it is not enough at all.*
13. *Fortunately, FGM practice is not performed in Afghanistan. But due to poverty, lack of security, traditional practices, early and child marriage is common. Though the law prohibits marriage under the age of 16 for girls but even 16 is a child, but this is some how legalization of child marriage. .*
14. *Unfortunately, in relation to legal and policy safeguards against abuses and delays in the provision of sexual rights health services, there is not much done. However, while such cases are found and reffered for provision of services, the center that are providing such services are asking for victims consent in order to take the case.*
15. *In Afghanistan,according to the constitutions, the state is responsible to provide free health care to the patients who are coming to the Government owned hospitals. But, unfortunately, due to the shortage of resources and funds, all the medical services are not provided and patients have to purchase the medication they need. Therefore, people who could afford to buy medical services, approaching private health institutions.*
16. *Continuation of conflict, lack of awareness, patriarchy, poverty and shortatge of resources and funds, makes it difficult to provide quality health services to all particularly to the poor.*

*All the situations that exist in a society in crisis, exists in Afghanistan. Lack of good governance, religious, racial, tribal and sexual discrimination, lack of rule of law and insecurity, all doubled the problems in Afghanistan and it all make it difficult the affordability and accessibility of services to all.* The terrorist activities including attackes on the hospital including on maternaity hospital few months ago scare the women to go the hospitals. But it is getting much better than 20 years ago .

Experiences of crisis

1. Please list the situations of crisis experienced by your State in the last five years.

No data available.

1. What was the impact of those crises on women and girls? Please provide information in particular on the following aspects:
2. *The impact of the crisis in Afghanistan for the past four decades of conflict is sad reality , conflicts have made hundreds of thousands of women widowed and disable. These women are illiterate, poor and vulnerable to any kind of abuse, particulary those who are disabled and mentaly ill. The crisis have affetected all women whether they live in urban areas or rural areas, as “once the fire is started, it will not see wet and dried wood and will burn it all (Persian proverb). But, overall, women in rural and remote area are the one who are suffereing the most. Because in urban areas, there will be some low income job oportunities and organizations that are going to help and take care of the needy although the demond is really high every one will not be able to get some help,but in the rural and remote areas, even that limited such help and organizations doesn’t exist.*
3. *The impact of the crisis on these women is that they are at risk of sexual expoitations and abuse and sexual violence. Unfortunately there is no detailed data available on this.*
4. *As stated above, Afghanistan is in stateof crisis or conflict. The majority of the resources and funds are spent on the fight against insurgents and Taliban. The main obstacle is the limited resources and fuds available for medical ervices to victims. And it is obvious that most of the women and children, pasrticularly girl child is affected.*
5. *As the conflict is getting sibsided, the priority is given to the reduction of mortality and morbidity rate of mothers and children due to pregnancy. There is not enough awareness raising and outreach programs on the family planning and contraception. While this could have had an significant affect on the decline of population as well as on the rate of mortality and morbidity of mothers and children due to pregnancy. Its long term effects could have also helped in poverty reduction programs.*
6. *Some legal measure have been taken to prohibit child marriage and discourage under age marriage which is common in the rural and remote parts of the country. The marriage age for girls have been approved to 16 years through a legislation. But,unfortunately the under age marriage is common at the rural and remote areas of Afghanistan due to insecurity and poverty.*
7. *Women’s group were not involved in developing policies in this regard.But, women activists were cautiously involved, since the such cases are very limited and happenes in very closed communities.although adovocay aginst the child marriage is done by women’s and human rights groups but the culture of impunity on child marriage encourage the people to continue the practice.*
8. *In provision of emergency response, some non-governmental organizations and organizations that are providing health cares, were involved in providing humanitarian assistance. But, there is no institutions which work particularly for SHR.*
9. *Such activities are funded by the International and donor organizations. The government and state owned organization such as office of state minister for disaster management and humanitarian affairs and the red crescent society, due to limited fund and resources, doing very little. Since, there is huge demand for such assistance and resources, the government couldn’t meet all the demands.but the relief is not include contraceptions.*
10. *One of the main problem in providing such assistance and resources, is the conservative way of thinking in this country. Women cant decide on their own and they have to ask their husbands or close male relatives. Otherwise, they will be stapmed as infidels.*
11. Could you identify any lessons learned? Please indicate if and how these lessons have been applied in preparedness strategies or in subsequent situations of crisis.

*As stated above, Afghanistan is in crisis since the past four decades. Lessons are not documented or recorded. Even if the lessons are documented or recorded, there is no capacity to go through those documents and records to analyse and summarise the lessons learnt.*

1. If your State has humanitarian aid programmes, please indicate whether SRHR are explicitly covered in the humanitarian aid strategy and how priorities on SRHR are set.

*The government doesn’t have the capacity resourcewise and staffwise to carry out a comprehensive SRHR program, but there are some international organizations that are carrying out such programs and they are taking into consideration such issues as SRHR. Under the pretext of traditions and tribal codes among the people, not much have been done in this regards.*

1. Please indicate the main challenges, if any, encountered by women and girls to access justice and obtain reparations for violations of their SRHR, including any procedural barriers, and the types of assistance available to access legal and other remedies. Please also indicate the groups of women and girls most affected. Where applicable, please indicate the role played by a national truth and reconciliation commission (or a similar body) in ensuring the recognition of human rights violations in relation to women’s and girls’ SRHR and reparations.

*There are a lot of problems and challenges encountered by women and girls. Only women and girls in the cities have access to the police office, prosecutors office and courts. Though Afghanistan has passed a law on the elimination of violence against women and the parliament has also passed a law on sexual harassment of women and girls. Lack of access of women to services and justice is considered a violation, but there is no conviction as such by the courts of laws in Afghanistan. No one has so far convicted on such ground.*

Preparedness, recovery and resilience

1. Is there any preparedness or risk management strategy/plan/policy in your State? If so, please provide information on the following aspects:
2. To what crisis does it apply? What situations are excluded?
3. Does it contain a definition of crisis? If so, please indicate the definition used.
4. Does it include measures concerning women and girls’ SRHR? If so, please describe the measures included and any special measures envisaged and/or adopted for specific groups of women and girls concerning both preparadeness and recovery.
5. How were the risks related to women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights, in urban and rural areas, identified and assessed?
6. Were women’s rights organizations involved in: i) the development of the strategy/plan/policy; ii) assessment of the risks concerning SRHR; iii) the design of the measures implemented; and iv) the monitoring of the strategy/plan/policy? Please indicate the steps taken to ensure their participation and to include a gender-perspective in crisis preparedness, management and recovery.
7. Please indicate if the strategy/plan/policy has undergone any assessments to date. If so, what were the main findings and recommendations concerning women’s and girls’ SRHR?

*There is no preparedness in this regard. Afghansitan still is in the state of conflict with Taliban and insurgents. The government along with its NATO allies are fighting a war against insurgents. This causes people to displace from one part to the other part of province or country. But as stated, no measures have been taken to tackle this issue.*

1. If your State does not have a plan that can immediately go into effect in a time of crisis, please explain why it is so.

*the ongoing conflict against insurgnts and Taliban, and on the other hand, political unstability, corruption and mismanagement of resources,lack of rule of law and bad governance, have doubled the problems. Therefore, the situation is not getting better any soon to make ground available for developing such a plan.*

1. Are there specific ways in which international human rights mechanisms can support States in their efforts to address a crisis?

*Sure. The international human rights mechanism can intervene and do the advocacy on behalf of victims and survivors and take such cases in to the attention of the government.*