



The Global Compact on Refugees
Zero Draft (as at 31 January 2018)

IPPF Comments
February 7, 2018

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) would like to offer some general comments on the Global Compact on Refugees' Zero draft:

General Comments

We agree that the global compact on refugees will strengthen international cooperation to ease pressures on host countries involved, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions and to support conditions of origin for return in safety and dignity. Build on international refugee protection regime and based on human rights principles.

We note that the purpose of the programme of action is to facilitate the application of a comprehensive response in support of countries particularly affected by a large movement of refugees, a protracted situation, or other context, as may be appropriate. We also note that the programme of action envisages generic support measures that would be translated into mutually reinforcing arrangements, contextualized and adapted to the specifics of each situation at the country and/or regional level. However, we emphasize the importance of ensuring that generic support measures are based on gender-responsive approaches with a contextual understanding of needs and capacities of women, girls, boys and men, in all their diversity. Generic support measures need to include provisions that ensure access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, especially for women and girls.

We strongly suggest that the basic package for health service¹ includes comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, integrated into primary health care. Access to sexual and reproductive health not only saves lives, it is also a basic human right. Women and girls who are forced to flee crises and conflicts often have limited access to SRHR and are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence, human trafficking, and forced marriage.

We strongly suggest that facilitating affordable and equitable quantities of medicines, medical supplies, vaccines, diagnostics and preventative commodities² include a wide range of contraceptives and other essential SRH commodities, including for HIV, STIs and safe abortion services, where not against the law.

We strongly suggest that assistance for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence³ is based on providing safe and ethical care using rights-based, survival centred approaches using a systems approach and establishing a safe referral pathway.

¹ Section 2.3 Health, 56

² Section 2.3, Health, 56

³³ Section 1.5 Addressing specific needs, 43

We know that the consequences of being denied SRH care in crises settings are dire: complications during pregnancy and childbirth can lead to maternal and neonatal ill- health and subsequently to death; the rate of STI and HIV transmissions increases with associated limitations in healthy life. Furthermore, research shows that humanitarian crises are associated with an increase in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and more people (especially women and girls but also men, boys and Sexual Gender Minorities) experience psychological and physical trauma. Women, who are exposed to unwanted pregnancies (often after domestic or external rape) only have the choice between being socially ousted when giving birth or undertaking an unsafe abortion and unnecessarily put their lives at risk.