

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Population Fund (hereinafter referred to as "UNFPA") supports the promotion of a holistic approach to women's health over their life spans and the concept of reproductive health as a human right; and the provision to women and men of the necessary information and services (hereinafter referred to as "RH"); and

WHEREAS, UNFPA has a mandate to address population issues and the reproductive health including family planning needs of women and men affected by natural or man-made disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereinafter referred to as "UNHCR") has the mandate to provide international protection and assistance to asylum seekers, refugees, returnees and, when requested, to other groups of internally displaced persons (hereinafter referred to as "persons of concern to UNHCR"), in close cooperation with governments; and

WHEREAS, an essential part of the international protection and assistance rendered by UNHCR comprises the provision of appropriate services to refugee women and men through host government ministries, other UN agencies and NGOs in partnership with UNHCR, or directly; and

WHEREAS, UNFPA and UNHCR are concerned that the RH information and services needs of millions of women and men of concern to UNHCR be adequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, UNFPA and UNHCR desire to cooperate in order to pursue their common objectives, and to establish general principles and identify areas in which such cooperation may take place for the benefit of persons of concern to UNHCR;

NOW THEREFORE, UNFPA and UNHCR hereby agree to the following principles governing their cooperation:

ARTICLE I - Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to establish an overall framework for collaboration and coordination between UNFPA and UNHCR for the benefit of persons of concern to UNHCR, with the following objectives:

1. To address RH information and services needs, in particular by:
 - a. Increasing awareness of the RH needs;
 - b. Developing and strengthening RH clinical and counselling services in the protection and assistance activities of UNHCR, its operational partners and other relief agencies;
2. Promoting a holistic approach to girls' and women's health.
3. Promoting RH among adolescents and young people.
4. Combating sexual violence, with particular attention to the dangers facing girls and women.

ARTICLE II - Areas of Collaboration and Coordination

The areas of specific collaboration and coordination between UNFPA and UNHCR will include the following:

1. Development of operational guidelines on the provision of RH information and services.
2. Advocacy of a holistic approach and integration of RH information and services in the programmes of relief organizations, especially NGOs.
3. Assessment of RH information and services needs of women and men in refugee situations.
4. Integration of RH information and services (including information on prevention of STDs/HIV/AIDS and counselling of adolescents) in existing and future health services of UNHCR and other relief organizations.
5. Monitoring and evaluation of RH information and services in programmes in which UNFPA and UNHCR have collaborated.
6. Improvement of demographic and other relevant information.
7. Exchange of information in order to ensure that RH information and services requirements are addressed effectively, especially in emergency situations.
8. Advocacy of measures to prevent, and provide protection from, sexual violence.

ARTICLE III - Responsibilities of UNFPA and UNHCR

1. UNFPA will:
 - a. Provide technical assistance and support, through the Office of the Senior

Adviser on Emergency Operations and UNFPA's network of UNFPA Country Directors and Country Support Teams, in the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of RH needs and services.

- b. Provide appropriate equipment, supplies, drugs and contraceptives consistent with UNFPA policies and consonant with the UNFPA programme in the particular country, based on the assessment of needs, as well as the resources available to UNFPA.
 - c. Provide technical assistance in the development and production of appropriate education materials related to RH information and services.
 - d. Provide technical assistance for the training of personnel for service delivery and related Management Information Service (MIS) activities.
 - e. Provide through the UNFPA Country Support Teams, and at the request of UNHCR, technical assistance for the improvement of statistical information on persons of concern to UNHCR.
2. UNHCR will:
- a. Provide logistical support through its field network to RH information and services needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation missions, after agreement on objectives, activities and timeframes.
 - b. Provide RH information and services to persons of its concern.
 - c. Inform UNFPA on the situation of persons of its concern, in order to facilitate the provision of RH information and services.
 - d. Seek technical guidance from UNFPA on RH activities, especially when assessing needs.
3. UNHCR and UNFPA will jointly:
- a. Develop strategies and programmes of advocacy for RH information and services needs and for combating sexual violence.
 - b. Develop strategies to promote RH among adolescents and young people.
 - c. Organize joint assessment, monitoring and evaluation missions relating to RH information and services.
 - d. Develop field manuals on the provision of RH information and services, including RH counselling and clinical activities.
 - e. Facilitate coordination at the field level through the establishment of coordination committees with the participation of UNHCR, UNFPA, other relevant UN organizations and NGOs, for the purpose of enhancing the provision of RH information and services.
 - f. Develop strategies to ensure the integration of RH information and services into the relevant programmes of other organizations.

ARTICLE IV - General Conditions

1. Nothing in this Agreement will affect the contractual relationship and administrative supervision of the operational partners of UNFPA and UNHCR, nor relationships between UNFPA or UNHCR and Member States.
2. The implementation of this Agreement will be in compliance with the respective administrative rules and procedures of UNFPA and UNHCR and be subject to availability of funds.
3. This Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the parties.
4. This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon 90 days' written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives affix their signatures to signify their agreement.

Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund

Sadako Ogata
High Commissioner for Refugees
Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees

Geneva, 30 June 1995
