“Towards resilient and sustainable societies: Health and well-being of women and young people”

Venue: Meeting room F, 1st floor UNCC
Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
Time: 12:00-13:30
Organizers: Embassy of Bangladesh, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

Background

The side event is focused on the 2018 APFSD/HLPF theme on sustainability and resilience and how it links to the health and well-being of women and young people, particularly of those who have the least access to information and services.

The SDGs call on actors to “leave no one behind” looks towards long-term, inclusive and equitable sustainable development. Essential to the concept of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest first is the need for addressing disaster-related risks systematically; reducing vulnerabilities of communities especially women, girls and young people, including through promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; strengthening resilience of communities and national institutions; and focusing on approaches that are effective to sustained, long-term development gains.

In Asia Pacific – a disaster-prone region – the link between resilience and sustainability is critical, requiring coordination of efforts on the two fronts. Resilience calls on actors to not only respond to crises, but to prepare and empower individuals, communities and institutions to manage risks and withstand and recover from crises.

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, all call for the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and young people to be addressed. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters, including their health, safety and wellbeing. To prevent new disaster risks and reduce existing ones, the specific needs, challenges and priorities of women and young people, especially girls, must be considered. The Sendai Framework calls for the design and implementation of inclusive policies and safety-net mechanisms and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn and child health and sexual and reproductive health. The Framework also requires us to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters. National and local strategies to strengthen resilience must therefore prioritize the health and safety of women and girls, including the prevention and response to gender-based violence.
**Scope**

The side event will explore the intersections of access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health and family planning, gender equality, empowerment of young people to fulfill their potential, and resilience within the context of increasingly frequent and severe climate-induced natural disasters. In addition, there will be consideration of the linkages to access to services for women and young people who are most left behind living in urban areas, particularly considering universal health coverage.

**Key Questions**

1. What are key factors of sustainability and resilience in relation to the health and well-being of women and young people?
2. What are priorities to ensure that health systems are resilient and able to respond to the needs of women and young people?
3. What are strategies for building resilience of women and young people in the context of natural disasters and emergencies?
4. What types of investments in young people are necessary for resilience and sustained development gains?

**For more details and information contact**

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