

A young girl with dark skin and hair is the central figure. She is wearing a sleeveless dress with a pattern of small white and green polka dots on a dark background. She is holding a large, black, wet umbrella over her head. She is looking back over her shoulder towards the camera with a slight smile. She is standing on a muddy, wet ground. In the background, there is a blue tent or shelter. To the left, there is a structure with a thatched roof made of dried leaves or straw. The overall scene suggests a rainy day in a temporary settlement or refugee camp.

PROTECTING WOMEN & GIRLS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS



SRI LANKA SITUATION

Sri Lanka has faced severe drought, floods, and landslides in recent years, which have left thousands of women and girls vulnerable, during and after emergency situations. In the wake of these disasters, families are left homeless, affecting their security, privacy, and hygiene.



UNFPA IN EMERGENCIES

In crisis situations, one in five women of childbearing age is likely to be pregnant. Without access to reproductive health services, these women face an increased risk of life-threatening complications. UNFPA works closely with the government and local partners to ensure that reproductive health is integrated into emergency response.



DATA*

2017



179,400

women and girls of
reproductive age affected



9400

estimated
pregnant women

2016



63,750

women and girls of
reproductive age affected



3200

estimated
pregnant women

*Estimated data based on number of people affected by floods and landslides.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and curly hair, smiling gently as she holds a newborn baby. The woman is wearing a white top with a black and white patterned scarf. The baby is wrapped in a blue patterned cloth and is looking towards the camera. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a doorway.

ROHINI, MOTHER OF NEWBORN BABY

"The trees behind our house fell for the impact of the landslide. Even today when it rains, I feel the same fear," Rohini says, cradling her third child, who was born prematurely 2 days before the May 2017 landslides destroyed her village. The landslide blocked all access to roads, and left Rohini helpless, as she had to nurse and care for her newborn.

"I had no way of accessing any supplies for my baby. We lost everything." Rohini is one of the many women who require post-partum care in emergency situations. As a mother of two older teenage daughters, she worries about their hygiene as well. "The supplies that we received from UNFPA were a huge relief, even in a small way."

UNFPA distributes **maternity kits** for pregnant women and mothers of infants to support in antenatal, safe delivery, and post-partum care. UNFPA also distributes **dignity kits** for women and girls of reproductive age to help maintain their hygiene and health. These kits include essential supplies such as menstrual pads, soap, and underwear.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a bright yellow sari with a gold border and a large circular pendant, stands in front of a blue tent. The background shows green trees and a clear sky. The right side of the image has a blue overlay with white text.

RAMYALATHA, COUNSELLOR ON THE FIELD

Ramyalatha Kodikara is a professional counselor working with a local partner organization. She is deployed to temporary shelters to provide psychological support to women and girls affected by disaster situations. "When we first came to this camp in Ratnapura, the people were facing massive trauma and depression following the disaster. We conducted both group and individual counseling programmes, and also held sessions to increase awareness on gender-based violence."

She says that many women and girls were terrified after the disaster, and some were even suicidal. With consistent psychological support and vocational training provided at the campsite, they are now focused on a better tomorrow. "They want to move forward with their lives now."

UNFPA provides **Women Friendly Spaces** which offer a space for women and young girls to feel physically and emotionally safe. At these safe spaces, UNFPA provides **psychosocial assistance**, and conducts regular programmes to increase awareness on **gender-based violence**, through the support of local partners.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white polka-dot top and a red and black patterned skirt, is sitting on a bed. She is looking down and to the right. The background shows a simple room with a bed and some items on it.

CHAMILA, IN NEED OF HEALTH SUPPLIES

"At first I could not find my son. When we did, it took us 10 minutes just to get him out of where he was stuck," says Chamila, looking at what used to be her home. As a young mother, Chamila is concerned about her family's safety and health needs.

Living in the camps means that she has limited access to health services, including family planning. The Reproductive Health Clinics supported by UNFPA has provided her access to doctors and enabled her to question them on sexual and reproductive health matters, including family planning. She is vocal about what her family needs, and actively participates in the clinics. "These clinics help me to make the right decisions about my family and their safety in this crisis situation."

Reproductive Health Clinics are a key part of the UNFPA commitment to strengthen reproductive and sexual health services where local health systems have been damaged or are not functioning regularly during emergencies. The clinics bring much-needed services and supplies - including contraceptives - directly to crisis-affected populations.

UNFPA DIGNITY KIT



Washing powder



Liquid antiseptics



Mosquito coils



Pain relieve balm



Nail cutter



Comb



Bath soap & Washing soap



Toothbrush & Toothpaste



Sanitary towels



Rubber slippers



Safety pins



Panties



Towel



Bed jackets



Chintz



Baby napkins



Cloth (to dry and wrap the baby)



Plastic sheet (Mackintosh)



Baby dress



Baby soap



Flask



Bed sheet

UNFPA MATERNITY KIT

OUR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Sri Lanka
- Family Health Bureau of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit,
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- Women in Need, Sri Lanka
- Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka
- Humanitarian Country Team



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