

# **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

Government of India

NDMA Bhawan

A-1 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi – 110029

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Special focus on Reproductive Health during Disasters : Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA at Sohna, Gurgaon  
19 July 2011**

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority called upon the State Governments to give special focus to reproductive health during disasters, particularly with regard to sensitive needs of women and girls. “Considering the fact that at any given point of time, 5% of the population are pregnant women, it is important to realize that their special needs have to be factored in while preparing the disaster management plans at the State and District levels. Shri Reddy was speaking at the inaugural session of Training of Trainers on “Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Disasters” at Sohna, Gurgaon this morning. About 30 participants from 10 different States of Northern Region are participating in this four day training programme which is organized by the NDMA in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Shri Reddy observed that response to disasters in general is very good in the country. In the past, we have also done evacuation of people to safer areas and cited instances where over 6.5 lakh people were evacuated during the 1990 Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and over 5.5 lakh people during the 2009 floods in Andhra Pradesh. However, he felt that enough thought has not been given to the special needs of the 5% population considered of pregnant women either in 1990 or in 2009.

The Minimum Initial Service Package for reproductive health is a priority set of live-saving activities and forms the starting point for reproductive health programming which needs to be sustained and built upon. MISP is an international standard recognized in a number of key humanitarian documents including IASC Health Cluster Guide brought out by WHO.

Recognizing the lack of such capabilities built into our systems, Shri Reddy called upon the need to make this a part of the disaster response plans and will be writing to the State Chief Ministers about the importance of such an initiative.

Even though this MISP becomes a part of the Plans, no useful purpose will be served on the ground unless we build capacities. He urged upon the participants from all the State Govts to act as a nucleus to carry forward the training programme to the lowest level.

At the end of the four day training programme, UNFPA will prepare a State specific module to carry this forward into a meaningful and purposeful initiative.

The inaugural session of this training programme was also attended by Dr Muzaffar Ahmad, Member, NDMA, Ms Federika Meijer, UNFPA Representative besides representatives of IPPF and UNICEF. Ms Sachi Grover of UNFPA is coordinating this training programme alongwith Col (Dr) T.S. Sachdeva, Senior Specialist of NDMA dealing with the subject on Medical Preparedness.

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