

United Nations Population Fund  
Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean



## **The effects of COVID-19 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and its impact on Gender Based Violence**

### **SRH and GBV lifesaving response plan –by UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean**

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# SRHR/GBV and COVID-19 Pandemic



**COVID-19  
Pandemic  
response**

**Continuity of  
essential SRH  
and GBV  
services**



# SRHR and GBV during COVID-19 pandemic



# SRHR and GBV during COVID-19: the impact



## Most affected?

Unintended pregnancies  
Unsafe abortions  
Increase incidence of STIs including HIV  
Increase in GBV and SEA  
Inc. Pregnancy complications  
Inc. Maternal and newborn deaths

Women, adolescents, migrants,  
refugees LGBTQI, PLVIH, sex  
workers, people living with  
disabilities, lowest wealth  
quintiles

# UNFPA's and COVID-19



## UNFPA's priorities

1. Continuity of SRHR services and interventions, including protection of SRH health workforce
2. Addressing gender-based violence
3. Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and reproductive health commodities

Human rights focused  
approach to ensure **NO ONE  
IS LEFT BEHIND**

## Continuity of SRH services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce- response to date



- Agreement with the **Caribbean Regional Midwives Association (CRMA)** for technical capacity strengthening of its Members across the region with focus on maternal and new-born care
- Agreements with **IPPF Affiliates** (Caribbean Family Planning Association, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago) to reorganize their service delivery model and ensure the continuity of SRH services through remote counselling, in-person consultations and home deliveries of methods.  
Interventions: FP, HIV counselling and testing, STI syndromic treatment, GBV safe identification, care and referral, awareness raising
- Agreement with **Reprolatina**- technical guidance of IPPF affiliates
- Procurement of PPEs for IPPFs and MoHW (Jamaica)

## Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities- response to date



- Support to Ministries of Health to assess and manage the risks of stock outs of contraceptives to ensure the continuous supply of these products in the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Through the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN COVID-19 MPTF) UNFPA will procure contraceptives (injectables) in order to ensure the availability of this contraceptive in Jamaica.

## Addressing GBV- Response to-date



- UNFPA is enhancing current **inter-agency coordination mechanisms**, while taking the lead in advising national authorities on GBV mainstreaming into their COVID-19 responses
- The SROC is conducting a **mapping of GBV and SRH services** in all the countries to inform rapid needs assessments and the development/update of **GBV referral pathways**
- UNFPA collaborated with UN Women and PAHO on the development of **Guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Shelters for GBV survivors in the Caribbean** and is in the process of procuring PPEs for service providers and beneficiaries of assistance.



## Addressing GBV- Response to-date



- In collaboration with LACRO, the SROC has been part of the development and revision of **Guidelines for the Provision of Remote Services for GBV Survivors**.
- The SROC is collaborating with LACRO on the development of an **Advocacy Brief on the criticality of GBV Service Provision during COVID-19**
- The SROC is working towards ensuring that **SRH responses throughout the region integrate GBV service provision**, by providing technical support to implementing partners and governments, and ensuring health frontline workers will be trained to safely identify and refer GBV survivors
- **Suriname** has started collaboration with UNDP toward ensuring a coordinated response to GBV during COVID-19 by providing financial and technical support to the Ministries of Justice, Police and home Affairs
- UNFPA is providing technical support to the National Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Violence in **Guyana**

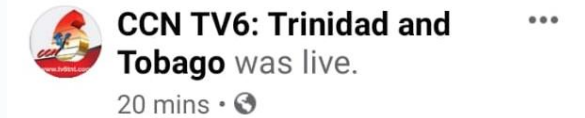
## Addressing GBV- Response to-date



- The SROC hosted a **webinar session on GBV during COVID-19**, service mappings and referral pathways for **Belize, Guyana and Barbados and OECS**, enhancing coordination to respond effectively.
- In the **Bahamas**, UNFPA is updating existing GBV referral pathways and continuing to support in the response to GBV in line with the response plan to Hurricane Dorian in 2019.
- in **Jamaica**, UNFPA is supporting the existing helpline response, with different actions including capacity building and, in collaboration with UN Woman, the operationalization of a new toll-free hotline number; updating existing GBV referral pathways; and supporting the operationalization of shelters.

# GBV response in Trinidad and Tobago

- On March 12, 2020, Trinidad and Tobago recorded its first case of COVID-19. The borders were subsequently closed and Social Distancing measures were put in place in response to COVID-19.
- With the implementation of these social distancing measures, all first responders to GBV, including the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service noted an increase in the reported incidence of GBV, including increased reports of abuse of children
- UNFPA responded by conducting a rapid assessment of service provision looking specifically at who is doing WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and for WHOM:
- [Service Mapping](#)



Trinidad and Tobago records its first COVID-19 case. Health Minister Dr. Terrence Deyalsingh confirmed in a press briefing.

More on the TV6 News at 7 streaming live at [bit.ly/tv6live](https://bit.ly/tv6live)



## GBV response in Trinidad and Tobago



The mapping of the services and the identification of the needs resulted in the mobilization of resources through the Spotlight Initiative. This included:

- The provision of telemedicine services by the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT).
- Personal Protective Equipment and telecommunication support to the Medical Research Foundation.
- Telecommunication support to Rape Crisis Center to facilitate tele-psychology services.
- Telecommunication support to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV) to facilitate Hotline and GBV Case Management services.
- The implementation of UNWomen's Women's Small Grants to support CSO first responders, particularly the shelters



# GBV response in Trinidad and Tobago



The mapping of services also resulted in:

- The provision of computers for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Services' GBV units by UNDP
- Support from UNWomen and the IOM to address hygiene supplies for over 101 local sex workers
- Support from the Pan American Development Foundation and Living Waters Community in the provision of food support for 44 migrant sex workers
- Food support and hampers for local sex workers and people living with HIV by the Catholic Church and the National AIDS Coordinating the Committee
- Direct technical support in the **development of Referral Pathways,**

GBV Referral Pathway can be found here: [Referral Pathway](#)

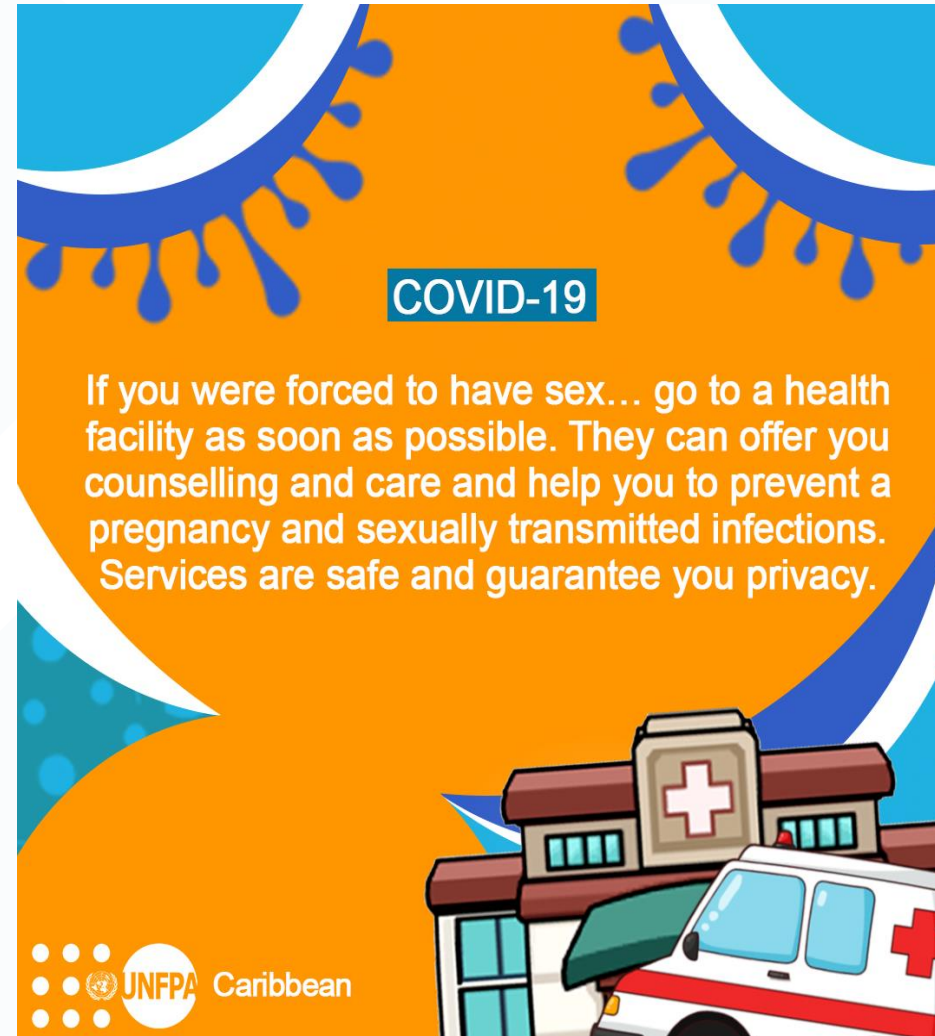
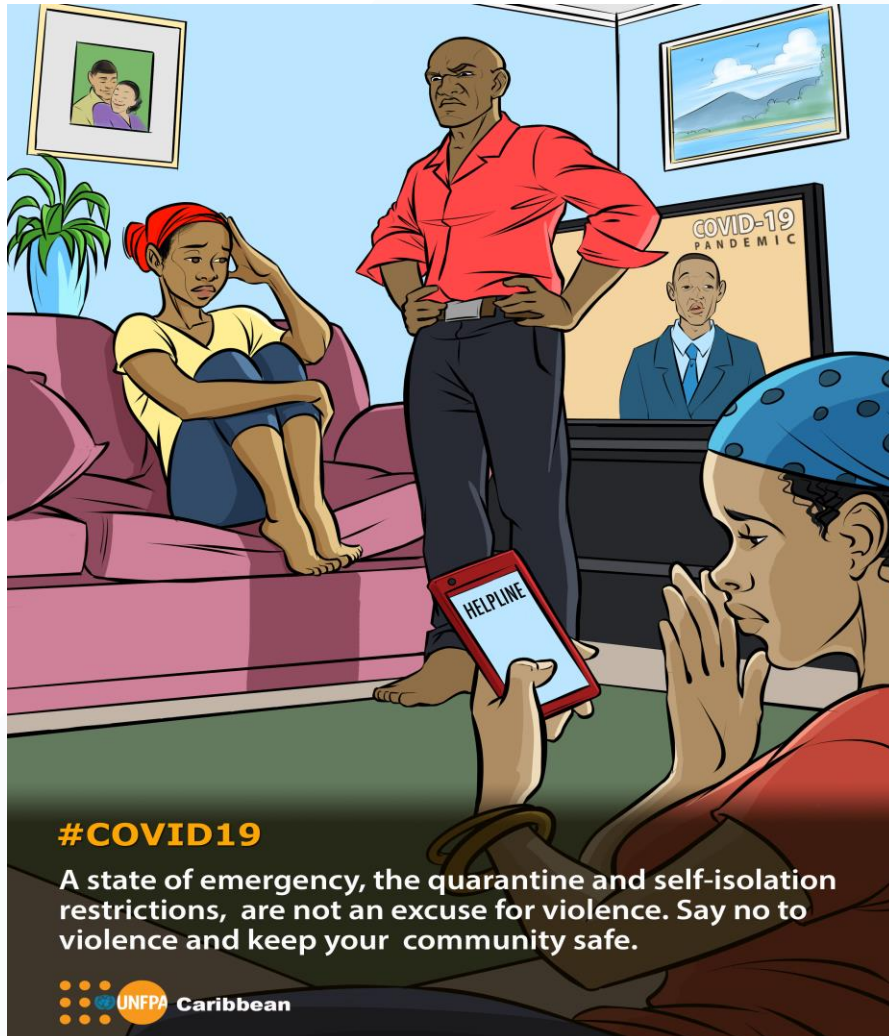


## SRH and GBV-risk communication



- The **dissemination of key messages** through social and traditional media containing contextualized messages on GBV prevention, mitigation and response as well as SRHR is taking place in collaboration with key partners (76 products which included podcasts, radio clips, leaflets and cue cards, illustrated posters and video animations)
- Agreement with the the **Barbados Council for the Disabled-** adaptation of the communications materials for PWD aiming to increase awareness of PWD on SRH, GBV and COVID-19 and impact on the disabled community (regional reach)

# SRH and GBV-communications



## SRH and GBV-upcoming response



- UNFPA is in the process of developing integrated SRH/GBV **Guidelines for Shelters and Safe Houses for GBV Survivors** in the region
- UNFPA is currently developing an online capacity building tool in the form of a **Webinar Series**. Topics will include remote GBV Service Provision, Safe Identification and Referral of GBV Survivors by Non-GBV Specialists/Psychological First-Aid, as well as a launch of the Regional Shelter Guidelines
- Continue the developing/updating **Referral Pathways** (SRH/GBV) across the region
- Increased GBV technical support for the Response for Venezuelans (R4V) Platform, ensuring coordination and visibility for the Caribbean region
- Adolescents and Youth Rapid assessment in the Caribbean (comprehensive SRH/HIV/GBV needs and risks)



***“Now is a time for solidarity, resolve and selflessness. We must not forget that there are people we may not immediately see, who are at great risk as a result of the consequences of the crisis”***

***Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director***

**The United Nations reproductive health and rights agency**

*Thank you for your attention*

**The United Nations reproductive health and rights agency**