EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AS AN ENTRY POINT TO INTEGRATING COMPREHENSIVE SRH SERVICES IN CONFLICT SETTINGS;
THE EXPERIENCES OF MARIES STOPES IN KENYA.

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Background

• Extreme violence resulting from disputed election results plunged Kenya into turmoil in Q1 2008, violence including sexual violence used widely as tools to terrorize ‘enemy’ communities.

• FIDA and UN reports indicate 1,500 persons killed, 1,000,000 persons displaced and over 3,000 women raped in the turmoil; Girls forced to trade sex for food, shelter and protection.

• MSK with financial support from UNFPA set up care centers in 7 IDP camps in Nairobi, Limuru, Nakuru and Kisumu.

• EC used as an entry point to reaching victims of sexual violence to integrate comprehensive SRH services.
Methodology

• Care centers set up in 7 of the IDP camps in Nairobi, Limuru, Nakuru and Kisumu between Jan-mar, 2008.

• PEV victims/ survivors mobilized, educated, counseled on sexual violence and emergency health services.

• Individual counseling, psychosocial support, SRH education and services provided including physical examinations and treatment.

• Referrals made to MoH facilities for continuum care of victims of sexual violence.
Results

• 12,073 persons given health education (10,070 f & c; 2,003 m).
• 2,143 victims/survivors counseled and psychosocially supported (1,790 f; 353 m).
• 15 victims/survivors treated for STI and referred (10 f; 5 m).
• 12,000 condoms distributed.
• 8 delivery services provided to victims/survivors (f).
• 10 implants provided (f).
• 103 females provided with various FP services.
• 3,211 victims/survivors given medical treatment (2,560 f & c; 651 m).
• 90 victims/survivors referred to MoH (67 f; 23 m).
Conclusions

• EC provision in conflict settings opens a strategic opportunity to comprehensively respond to sexual violence including services integration e.g. SV/ FP/ STI/ safe motherhood/ adolescent SRH.

• Addressing sexual and gender violence is essential to the health and well being of women in conflict settings.

• Availing EC to victims/ survivors; providing information/ education on EC helps increase acceptance and uptake of EC.

• Involvement of local administration and security forces is critical to successful SV response and prevention strategies in conflict settings.
Thank You all!