



UNFPA DIGNITY KIT - CYCLONE PAM



When disaster strikes, **UNFPA** ensures that the reproductive health needs and protection concerns of women and girls are integrated into emergency responses. One of the ways in which UNFPA supports women and girls in the aftermath of natural disasters is by providing **'dignity kits'**.

What is a dignity kit?

Dignity is about more than physical and mental well-being. It is about meeting the basic needs of the women who hold together the fabric of our communities in times of crisis.

A dignity kit comprises the basic items that women and girls need to protect themselves and maintain hygiene and respect in the face of natural disasters.

The simplest items can have the greatest impact: Sanitary supplies are used during menstruation and undergarments and toiletries provide basic hygiene. Without them, women may be inhibited from carrying out daily tasks or hesitate to venture out to access relief aid; girls may miss school, too.

And they offer protection: A flashlight will enable women to travel or access bathroom facilities at night, a time when they are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence. In addition, radios facilitate the communication of vital information like where to seek help if in distress, or the location of the closest health facility if roads are blocked.

Dignity kits are designed to be adaptable to suit the cultural needs of affected communities across the world, including in the Pacific.

A gateway to better reproductive health

Dignity kits provide a gateway that allows UNFPA to discuss wider sexual and reproductive health and protection concerns with affected communities, particularly women and girls.

For example, UNFPA uses the networks established through the distribution of dignity kits to organize sensitization sessions for communities and raise awareness about basic sexual and reproductive health, women's protection, and ante- and postnatal care.