

UNFPA

Dignity Kits



UNFPA stands for the United Nations Fund for Population

The MWA is giving £1,500 from funds raised this year (2018/2019) to the UNFPA, for Dignity Kits.

What are Dignity Kits?

Dignity Kits provide items that help women and girls to maintain hygiene and dignity and go about their daily lives with less fear of facing stigma or violence, particularly during humanitarian crises. Preserving dignity is essential to maintaining self-esteem and confidence, which is important to cope in stressful and potentially overwhelming humanitarian situations. Supporting women's self-esteem and confidence also assists them in providing care and protection to their children. Dignity kits provide age, gender, and culturally appropriate garments and other items. All kits will contain sanitary supplies and basic hygiene items. In addition, culturally and situation specific items such as headscarves, shawls, whistles, torches, underwear, and small containers for washing personal items, may also be provided.

Who receives Dignity Kits?

Recently UNFPA has provided Kits to Rohingya women fleeing from Myanmar to Bangladesh, and displaced Syrian women.

Why would anyone object to distributing Dignity Kits?

The UNFPA as its name implies, does other work promoting contraception, safe childbirth, and sexual health for women. These are not always aims which traditional cultures approve of. Religious and community leaders, and family elders, can be suspicious of direct contact by UNFPA, fearing it encourages women and girls to report violence by men, and undermines their traditional cultural norms. Distribution of Kits therefore needs careful planning, and community support is essential.

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