Women and Displacement

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Definition
Displaced people

- People who have **had to** leave their homes as a result of a natural, technological or deliberate event
- Displaced people end up in large camps with insufficient environmental health measures
- Displacement include:
  1. Internally displaced person (IDP)
  2. Refugees
Refugee

Someone who has been **forced** to **flee** his or her country

Leading causes of **War** and **ethnic**, tribal and religious **violence**

A **fear** of persecution due to:

- Race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group

They often **cannot return** home or are **afraid** to do so
IDPs

- To be **forced** to **flee home** for the same reason as refugee

- **Remaining** in country and **not crossing** an **international** border

- IDPs are **not** protected by international **law** or **eligible** to receive many types of **aid**

- Increase of IDPs due to the **changed nature of war** with more **internal conflicts**
Statistical Information
New displacements associated with conflict and disasters in 2015

- Conflict and violence (Total: 8.6 million)
- Disasters (Total: 19.2 million)

Countries and their respective figures are indicated on the map with circles proportional to the number of displacements. The map highlights areas affected by conflict and disasters, with Syria and Yemen being particularly prominent.

NOTE: For both types of displacement, the number is shown only when it exceeds 20,000. The size of the pie charts is fixed for estimates of 5,000 or less. In a few cases, the same person may be displaced more than once.
Refugees and conflict-related IDPs
1990-2015

Internally displacement monitoring center, available at http://www.internal-displacement.org
Regions with Most New Displacement in 2015

Conflict

- Middle East and North Africa: 4.8m
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 2.2m
- South Asia: 336,000
- Europe and Central Asia: 942,000
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 231,000

Disaster

- East Asia and the Pacific: 8.4m
- South Asia: 7.9m
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 1.1m
- Other: 0.3m
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 1.5m

Internally displacement monitoring center, available at http://www.internal-displacement.org
Countries with Most New Displacement in 2015

Internally displacement monitoring center, available at http://www.internal-displacement.org
8.6 MILLION NEW DISPLACEMENTS
BY CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE
IN 28 COUNTRIES IN 2015

CONFLICT RELATED DISPLACEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA HAS CONTINUED TO RISE

YEMEN, SYRIA AND IRAQ ACCOUNTED FOR
OVER HALF OF THE GLOBAL TOTAL

19.2 MILLION NEW DISPLACEMENTS
BY DISASTERS
IN 113 COUNTRIES IN 2015

SOUTH AND EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES BORE THE BRUNT

INDIA, CHINA AND NEPAL ACCOUNTED FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBERS
IN 2015 ALONE...

27.8 MILLION
DISPLACEMENTS IN 127 COUNTRIES CAUSED BY
CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND DISASTERS
### Iran, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>79,109,000</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>(Source: UN, Population Division)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New displacement (disaster)</strong></td>
<td>5,400</td>
<td>Displaced persons</td>
<td>(Source: IDMC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Refugees</strong></td>
<td>82,000</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>(Source: UNHCR as of 2014)</td>
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</tbody>
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*Internally displacement monitoring center, available at [http://www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)*
Displaced Women

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Vulnerable Groups

1- All women:
   - Single women travelling alone or with children
   - Pregnant and lactating women
   - Adolescent girls
   - Early-married girls (with new-born babies)

2- Unaccompanied children

3- People with disabilities

4- Elderly men

   - Single adult refugee women: one of the most vulnerable groups
     (lack of financial means, professional qualification, family support)
Women

- **Women and girls** make up around **50 percent** of any displacement (refugee, IDPs)
- **24%** of the people arrived Europe were **children** and **16%** were **women** in 2015
- **Gender is essential** in:
  - Developing and implementing measures and policies aimed at **protecting** and **empowering women** refugees
  - Allowing them to become **active contributors** to the host society
Women’s Vulnerabilities

- Women’s needs and exposure to risks have to be recognized with reference to:
  1. The situation they are escaping from (country of origin)
  2. What happened during their journey to the host country
  3. At the moment of integrating into the host society
1- The Country of Origin

▶ Women:

1- Flee from persecution in their home country:

- On the grounds of ethnic, political, and religious belonging or of their family members

2- Multidimensional persecution:

- Women are additionally persecuted or have to face heavier oppression because of their gender
2- During the Journey

- Being exposed to greater risks than men due to:
  - Gender-based violence, scarce healthcare assistance, and lack of reproductive health services
  - Have to carry the burden of care for family members (especially single mothers)
  - Financial insecurity and deprivation
3- In Host Country

- **Lack** of access to **language classes** and **training courses** because of their difficulties with family or child care:
  - Limit their possibility of integration, sense of belonging, and independence
- Lack of recognition of their **qualifications** by the host country (underqualified low-paid jobs)
- Experiencing **double discrimination** as **women** and **foreign-born** in the host country labour markets
Limited access to necessary information and facing cultural barriers when accessing health care services

Experience of violence (sexual and physical) as women

Poverty and deprivation
Health Challenges
Health Issues Related to Life Experiences

- Wars, climate change, and persecutions due to political, racial, religious, and gender reasons in the country of origin:
  
1. **Malnutrition**

2. **Psychological traumas**

3. **Violence** experienced in country of origin or during the journey:
   - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- **Armed conflicts:**
  - Make it **impossible** to access healthcare basic services: affecting family planning, disease prevention (HIV), and sexual education

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Health issues Related to Immigration

1- **Difficult access** to healthcare services due to:
   - **Communication** problems
   - **Language** and cross-cultural barriers
   - Lack of **information** on how healthcare assistance works
   - Lack of **training** and awareness of **health personnel** about refugee issues and their specific needs and care expectations

2- **Lack of hygiene kits**
   - Undermining their opportunities to participate in community activities, training programmes, and employment
Case Study:
Australia
Women’s Status

- **Top 10 countries** for resettling refugee women and girls in **Australia**: Iraq, China (PRC), Burma, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, **Iran**, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Bhutan

- ‘**Woman at Risk**’ category: Losing husbands or other adult males in their families
Violence

- Greater risk of sexual violence for women and girls:
  - Rape
  - Forced impregnation
  - Forced abortion
  - Trafficking
  - Forced and early marriage
  - Intentional spread of sexually transmitted infections (HIV)

- Unprotected camp from sexual violence: overcrowded and unsafe camps
Reproductive Health

- **High need** for information on female anatomy, menstruation, pregnancy, contraception, STIs and menopause

- Lack of knowledge on available sexual and reproductive services

- Poorer **maternal** health (pre-resettlement health status, and disadvantage in resettlement)

- Presenting late antenatal care

- Consequences of sexual abuse: unplanned pregnancy and STIs

- Experiencing post-natal depression
Mental and Physical Health

- **Chronic diseases** such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease
- **Infectious** and parasitic diseases such as hepatitis B, malaria and schistosomiasis
- **Nutritional deficiencies** (iron, vitamin D, Folic acid)
- Inadequate **immunization**
- Depression, anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- **Somatization** of psychological problems (headaches, insomnia, generalized pain)
Case Study:
UK
Women’s Status

Since 2003, one third of refugee people in the UK each year are women.

“Powerful Women’s Project” between 2010-2011:

- More than 70% had experienced violence either in their country of origin (57%) or in the UK (20%)
- 44% had been raped
- Under 30% had been tortured
- Half had mental health needs and over 20% had acute mental health problems
- More than 20% were destitute
Violence

- **Further risk** of violence due to:
  - Limited *protection* within country of origin
  - Restrictions on international travel
  - Cases of women being *raped* by *smugglers*
- **Not allowed** to *work*, and forced to find other survival strategies:
  1. Illegal work or begging
  2. Entering into or remain in exploitative or abusive relationships
  3. Engaging in transactional sex or prostitution to survive
Access to Health Services

- Having **complex** health needs (trauma and deprivation in countries of origin and in UK)
- High quality and appropriate health services for women recovery:
  1. **Psychological** support (effects of sexual violence on mental health)
  2. **Physical** health:
     - Woman experiencing **abdominal pains** and **bleeding** after being raped
     - **Pregnant** women with rough life
     - Women with **cancer**
- **Poverty**
Case Study:
United States
Refugee Status

- From 2008–2011, between 5,000–15,000 Bhutanese refugees arrived annually in the United States (N=48,846)

Source: Electronic Disease Notification System (EDN)
Violence

- Sexual assault
- Rape
- Trafficking
- Polygamy
- Domestic violence
- Child marriage

- Domestic violence: the most pervasive form of violence in Bhutanese refugee camps

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Health Services

- Approximately **91-97% prenatal care** coverage in camp
- **Contraception** and family planning services were widely used and accepted
- Malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women received **multivitamin supplements**
- Lack of a mammogram or Pap smear
- **Not feel comfortable** discussing sexuality and gynecological issues with non-family members (male clinicians)
- The prevalence of **anemia**:
  - **19%** for women of reproductive age
  - **28%** for **pregnant** women
TEACH YOUR
SONS TO RESPECT
WOMEN