

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT



The Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement research program at the World Bank has examined how gender inequality impacts the experience of forced displacement in 17 countries across different dimensions of human development – income and multi-dimensional poverty, livelihoods, gender norms, intimate partner violence and child marriage. The research shows that gender-related constraints are often amplified in situations of forced displacement and considers how policies and programs can help to overcome these obstacles.

POVERTY & INEQUALITY

A Multi-Country Analysis of Multi Dimensional Poverty in Contexts of Forced Displacement & Multi Dimensional Poverty, Gender, and Forced Displacement: A Multi-Country, Intra Household Analysis in Sub Saharan Africa

Using household survey data from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur), this research constructs a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) that covers forcibly displaced and host communities. The MPI captures the overlapping deprivations experienced by poor individuals in contexts of displacement. It covers several domains like housing, health, education, as well as some gender specific ones, like child marriage, that capture non-income dimensions of poverty.

- The overall finding is that displaced households are generally poorer than nondisplaced households.
- In all five countries studied, women are more likely to lead a multidimensionally poor household than men. Female headed households are also more common among the forcibly displaced population in all five countries.
- In Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan female headed IDP/refugee households have a higher incidence of poverty than female headed households that are not displaced. But this result does not hold for Nigeria.
- Forcibly displaced individuals experience higher levels of intrahousehold inequality than their non-displaced peers in deprivations like school attendance and legal identification suggesting that displacement status most affects the deprivation status of households, whereas gender drives differences in deprivations within households.

To varying extents across settings, the results reveal gender gaps in school attendance, primary school completion, employment, and access to legal identification—which can then be targeted by government policies and programs to improve the situation for those who are multidimensionally poor.

Key Findings:

- Households that depend mostly on women's earnings seem more likely to be in multidimensional poverty. For example, in Ethiopia, multidimensional poverty rates among refugee households that depend on female-single earners and multiple-female earners are the high (52 percent and 57 percent, respectively). In contrast, 23 percent of refugee households whose income depends on a single-male earner and 16 percent of those that depend on multiple-male earners are poor.
- In Ethiopia, nearly half of female refugees face multidimensional poverty compared to a quarter of male refugees.
- The indicator which drives the gap between displaced populations and their hosts varies. In Ethiopia, the largest gap between displaced and host populations are for indicators on access to bank accounts and cooking fuel. In Somalia it is years of schooling, in Sudan it is electricity, in South Sudan it is drinking water, and in Nigeria it is legal identification.
- Nearly 24% of multi-dimensionally poor female headed households are deprived in 70% or more of indicators in South Sudan.
- In Sudan (Darfur), we see higher intensities of poverty among the refugee and IDP populations and their host communities compared to the other countries in the study.

POVERTY & INEQUALITY

Differences in Household Composition: Hidden Dimensions of Poverty and Displacement in Somalia

Key Findings:

- Income poverty rates are higher among IDPs than non-IDPs (77% versus 66%)
- Male-headed households are poorer than female-headed ones among both groups.
- Families are disrupted during displacement; some children and the elderly join other households, while other members remain behind. Such changes increase poverty risk, even in situations where poverty is already widespread.
- Further analysis reveals that IDP households with female single caregivers and households with children experience the highest poverty.
- Compared to IDP families without children, IDP single female caregivers and couples with children are 17-20 percentage points more likely to be poor, which this is not the case among non-IDP families.
- Having multiple earners in the household protects families from poverty.
- For IDP households, the least poverty risk is associated with having more female earners, while more male earners is associated with the least poverty risk—about 30 percent less—for non-IDP households.
- Apart from the household head and spouse, additional female earners in IDP households are in most cases adult children.

The analysis highlights that poverty reduction policies and programs must cover all households and lift barriers to women's economic opportunities. Programs that respond to women's care responsibilities and address barriers to women's economic opportunities are especially important for internally displaced people.

How Does Poverty Differ Among Refugees? Taking a Gender Lens to the Data on Syrian Refugees in Jordan

Key Findings:

- Half of female principal applicants (PA) are single caregivers.
- One-third of Syrian refugee households had a female PA (the persons who receives assistance from UNHCR) between 2011 and 2014 and the demographic characteristics of the households they head are very different from those of male PA households.
- Female PAs have markedly less access to daily and irregular work than male PAs and are less educated; 29% of female PAs have less than six years of education compared to 17% of male PAs.
- The presence of more adult men in the households is associated with lower poverty risks, as men have more access to labor markets.
- Gender based violence and social norms also inhibit women's access to and integration in the labor market.

The findings suggest that it is important to distinguish between different types of male and female principle applicant households.

POVERTY & INEQUALITY

The Impact of Protracted Displacement on Syrian Refugees in Jordan: The Evolution of Household Composition and Poverty Rates

Key Findings:

- The share of female principle applicant households increased substantially from 26 to 38 percent of all Syrian refugee households between 2013 and 2018
- Syrian refugee female PA households are smaller in size than male PA households. Once economies of scale in consumption are considered we find that female PA households have fared worse than male PA households between 2013-14 and 2017-18 and are disproportionately represented in the bottom 40 percent of the distribution.
- Female single caregivers remain at the most risk of falling into poverty when compared with other types of households and over time.
- The share of female single care givers in the bottom 40 percent rose from 38 to 48 percent between 2013 and 2018
- The number of children below age 5 and the number of elderly increased poverty risk more for female PAs than male PAs. In contrast, for male Pas, large household size is most associated with higher poverty risk.
- Finishing primary education and the presence of a male household members reduces poverty risk (due to increased access to labor markets). While households with these characteristics are associated with lower poverty risk for both male and female PA households, the effect is largest for female PA households.

Recommendations include investment in secondary education for boys and girls, and capacity building efforts to encourage labor market participation. Interventions could include flexible working arrangements to account for domestic responsibilities.

GENDER NORMS

The Impact of Protracted Displacement on Syrian Refugees in Jordan: The Evolution of Household Composition and Poverty Rates

Key Findings:

- Gender role attitudes are similar between Syrians and Jordanians. In this case, displacement did not expose refugees to substantially different gender norms.
- Women and girls have more equitable gender role attitudes than men. For example, women were more likely than men to agree that women should be allowed to work. If men's attitudes shifted to be similar to women's, this could lead to reduced gender inequities.
- Syrian women are more mobile than Jordanian women, primarily due to more female-headed households among Syrians.
- Syrian adolescents are significantly less likely to say they think domestic violence is justified in certain circumstances than Jordanian adolescents.
- Syrian adolescent girls are less mobile than Jordanian adolescent girls, likely due to safety, security, and reputation concerns.
- Syrian women do more domestic work than both Syrian men and Jordanian women.
- When both girls and their mothers have more decision-making power, girls are less likely to participate in domestic work.
- Syrian adolescents drop out of school earlier than Jordanian adolescents.

The findings suggest the importance of considering adolescent refugee girls as a distinct group. Programming should include safe mobility and access to safe spaces where girls can build social networks.

LIVELIHOODS & DEVELOPMENT

Forced Displacement, Gender, and Livelihoods: Refugees in Ethiopia

Key Findings:

- The results show refugees are significantly less likely to be employed than individuals in host community households.
- Refugees in Ethiopia tend to be more reliant on humanitarian assistance than host communities; only 13% of female headed refugee households obtain most of their income from sources other than aid.
- Adult refugees living in female headed households are 7.5 percentage points less likely to participate in the labor market compared to their male headed counterparts.
- Education has a stronger effect on the probability of refugees being employed than in host communities.
- Refugees in Somalia region appear to have better access to livelihood opportunities compared to other refugee hosting regions. Refugees and hosts in the Somali region share both language and culture reportedly allowing a peaceful coexistence and greater integration compared with other displacement settings.
- Access to education for refugees in Ethiopia has a stronger effect on the probability of being employed among refugees, male and female. Joint refugee host agricultural cooperatives is also a promising intervention.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Risk That Travels with You: Links between Forced Displacement, Conflict and Intimate Partner Violence in Colombia and Liberia

Key Findings:

- Displaced women in Colombia and Liberia have between 40 and 55 percent greater odds of experiencing past-year intimate partner violence (IPV) compared with their nondisplaced counterparts.
- In each country, both conflict and displacement were independently and significantly associated with past-year intimate partner violence.
- For every year a woman waits to get married, she has a 0.03% lower odds of lifetime IPV in Colombia.

Interventions that have been evaluated include firewood distribution and alternative fuel programs, which have shown reductions of IPV in refugee camps.

Conflict, Displacement and Overlapping Vulnerabilities: Understanding Risk Factors for Gender-Based Violence among Displaced Women in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

Key Findings:

- Displacement increases a woman's risk of past-year intimate partner violence by 6 percent and experiencing war abuses increases the risk of lifetime intimate partner violence by 9 percent, after adjusting for other risk factors.
- Both exposure to war-related experiences and displacement independently increase the risk of past-year sexual violence by 6 percent, after adjusting for other risk factors.
- Forced displacement and traumatic war-related experiences are risk factors for intimate partner violence and sexual violence in this setting.
- Among Congolese refugees, destabilization of gender norms in displacement settings may be associated with increased IPV.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Intimate Partner Violence and Household Decision Making Autonomy : Effects of the Malian Conflict on Women

Key Findings:

- Post-conflict, women living in conflict-affected areas were significantly more likely than their counterparts, living in areas not affected by the conflict, to experience multiple forms of IPV.
- Risk of experiencing IPV increases if a woman has witnessed a father physically abuse his wife/partner or have a partner who is sometimes or often drunk.
- Women in conflict affected areas report greater decision-making power within the home related to large household purchases and paying visits to family.

Effect of Armed Conflict on Intimate Partner Violence : Evidence from the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

Key Findings:

- Between 2008 and 2013 the Boko Haram insurgency is associated with slower progress toward preventing and eliminating women's experiences of physical and sexual intimate partner violence.
- The Boko Haram insurgency increases the probability that women experience physical or sexual IPV by about 4 percentage points.
- The Boko Haram insurgency increases the probability of women's experiencing controlling behavior by partner by 14 percentage points.
- The research extends the evidence base on the association between conflict and increased male perpetration on IPV by establishing a link between exposure to conflict and behaviors that are forms of IPV in themselves and known to increase risk of physical and sexual IPV.

Conclusions are that investment in multi-sectoral programs to respond to and prevent IPV is therefore integral to the success of humanitarian and development policies and programs in conflict settings. There is a growing evidence base that demonstrates that violence against women and girls, such as IPV, is preventable within programmatic timeframes.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Increase funding and invest in women's groups.** Funding should be purposely allocated to local organizations led by forcibly displaced women who are well-positioned to understand and respond to context-specific needs.
2. **Increase access to sustained services for survivors.** Quality responses for GBV survivors that are forcibly displaced, recognizing the increased probability of violence, should be a priority for ministries overseeing services.
3. **Invest in efforts to prevent IPV among forcibly displaced populations.** These efforts should be adapted to forced displacement settings and accompanied by more systematic monitoring and evaluation to build evidence about what works in diverse settings.
4. **Understand local settings.** Multi-country data collection efforts that already ethically gather information about women's experiences with GBV – like the Demographic and Health Surveys -- should also ask questions about displacement experiences and aim to oversample often-overlooked migrant populations.

This work is part of the program 'Building the Evidence on Protracted Forced Displacement: A MultiStakeholder Partnership'. The program is funded by UK aid from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), it is managed by the World Bank Group (WBG) and was established in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The scope of the program is to expand the global knowledge on forced displacement by funding quality research and disseminating results for the use of practitioners and policy makers. This work does not necessarily reflect the views of FCDO, the WBG or UNHCR.

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