

GROUPS WITH SPECIFIC PROTECTION NEEDS

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What particular risks or difficulties would they face during the displacement cycle?



WOMEN AND GIRLS

Displaced women and girls encounter particular protection problems specific to their gender and age



- Security problems threatening or exposing them to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) or other forms of violence
- Problems accessing and enjoying assistance and services
- Position of women and girls in society leading to inequalities
- Legal systems which do not adequately respect, protect and fulfill their rights
- Protection mechanisms which do not adequately respect, protect and fulfill their rights

WOMEN AND GIRLS – RISK PROFILES

- Single mothers or caregivers
- Single women
- Widows
- Older women
- Women with disabilities
- Survivors of violence
 - Domestic violence
 - Female genital mutilation
 - Harmful traditional practices
 - Threat of honour killing/violence
 - Forced/ early marriage
 - Survival sex



UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN



Unaccompanied children

Children separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Separated children

Those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives.

- Frequently at risk of not being able to access humanitarian assistance and education, especially girls.
- Without proper community support mechanisms, at a higher risk of being victims of sexual violence or forced recruitment.

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN - GOOD PRACTICES

Access to the Territory

Children seeking protection should never be refused entry or returned at the point of entry. They should never be detained for immigration reasons.

Child Victims of Trafficking

States should take counteractive measures to prevent and stop trafficking. The treatment of trafficked children should be governed by child protection principles that should prevail over immigration or crime prevention priorities.

Identification

Immigration authorities should put in place procedures to identify UA/SC and to refer such children to the appropriate child welfare authorities.

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN - GOOD PRACTICES

Family Tracing and Contact

Tracing for a child's parents and family needs to be undertaken as soon as possible

Appointment of a Guardian or Adviser

An independent guardian or adviser should be appointed. The individuals carrying out these responsibilities may be drawn from a range of specialist backgrounds.

Registration and Documentation

Immigration officers should limit their interviews to gathering basic information about the child's identity. All those interviewing UA/SC should have appropriate training and expertise in interviewing separated children.

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN - GOOD PRACTICES

Age Assessment

If an age assessment is thought to be necessary, independent professionals with appropriate expertise and familiarity with the child's ethnic/cultural background should carry it out. Examinations should never be forced or culturally inappropriate.

Freedom from Detention

UA/SC should never be detained for reasons related to their immigration status.

Right to Participate

The views and wishes of UA/SC should be sought and taken into account whenever decisions affecting them are being made.

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN - GOOD PRACTICES

Health

UA/SC should have access to health care on an equal basis with national children.

Education, Language and Training

UA/SC should have access to the same statutory education as national children.

OLDER PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Older persons and persons with disabilities regularly face attitudinal, social and physical barriers in accessing the protection to which they are entitled



- Discriminatory treatment; Perceived as a “burden” by their communities and families
- No adequate assistance and protection measures, including reception infrastructure
- Lack of specialized health care with specialist doctors, psycho-social support and counselling services
- More barrier to obtain nationality through naturalization or birth registration

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX (LGBTI)

The multiple vulnerabilities that LGBTI refugees may face in all stages of the displacement cycle is an increasing protection concern.

They often experience:

- Violence, including sexual abuse, torture or murder at the hands of state actors or community and family members
- Lack of police protection
- Severe discrimination and exclusion from access to health care, housing, education, employment and other social services
- Arbitrary arrest, detention or extortion, especially in countries that criminalize same-sex relations
- Social banishment from their family and community and other support mechanisms

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX (LGBTI)

They may also require specific assistance, including:

- Reception or care arrangements, including for applicants who are adolescents
- Assistance in accessing asylum procedures and humanitarian programmes
- Protection from physical harm or sexual violence, both generally and in detention
- Legal counseling or representation
- Safe housing and other social services, including psychosocial support
- Medical care (such as gender affirming hormone treatment or surgery or treatment for HIV-related problems)

Thank you!
Any questions?