

THE GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT: NEW EVIDENCE TO GUIDE POLICY

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GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Understanding Inequality Through Data & Analysis



WORLD BANK GROUP

Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement

Overview of the GDFD Program and Multidimensional Poverty Research

Lucia Hanmer



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The Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement Research Program

How does forced displacement affect women and men differently?

- Examines constraints and barriers related to gender inequality that are often amplified in situations of forced displacement.
- Uses nationally representative surveys/ large n surveys
- Considers how policies and programs can help overcome obstacles and enable new opportunities to be realized.
- Identifies data gaps in information needed to build the evidence base on gender and forced displacement

Topics

Multidimensional and Income Poverty

Intimate Partner Violence

Livelihoods

Social Norms

Country studies -- Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan + Multi country studies -- 17 countries

Multidimensional and Income poverty - findings

- Displaced populations are generally poorer than host populations in both monetary terms, and experience high rates of multidimensional poverty.
- Female-headed households are not always poorer than male-headed households but demographic composition matters and is linked poverty risk especially for displaced households
- Care responsibilities and barriers to women's economic opportunities linked to poverty risks
- Females' education prospects appear to disproportionately suffer from displacement

Countries

Income poverty

Jordan Syrian refugees

Somalia - IDPs

Multidimensional poverty

Ethiopia - refugees

IDPs - Nigeria, Sudan,

South Sudan

Results establish the high likelihood of relative disadvantage among displaced families, even in poor communities - multidimensional deprivations go beyond income poverty - and women often worse off

Multidimensional and income poverty – policy implications

- Addressing gender gaps in school attendance, primary school completion, unemployment, and legal identification in displaced households – while increasing the levels of access in both host and displaced communities.
- Recognizing harmful gender norms, as embedded in discriminatory legal norms and regulations that for example limit women’s property rights.
- Opening up economic opportunities for displaced women by, for example, offering safe and accessible education and training, reproductive health services and affordable childcare, lifting legal barriers for working women and investing in programs that prevent and respond to elevated risks of GBV, including intimate partner violence.
- Linking refugees and IDBs with programs designed for them by providing legal identification and sharing information.

Forced Displacement and Gender-based Violence

Jocelyn Kelly



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Gender-based Violence - Key Findings

- Three studies, spanning four different countries (Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia and Mali)
- Goal is to examine the impact of both displacement and exposure to conflict on intimate partner violence (IPV), adjusting for other known risk factors
- Displaced women in Colombia and Liberia have between 40 and 55% greater odds of experiencing IPV in the past year compared to their non-displaced counterparts.
 - In Colombia, displaced women were also 30% more likely to experience lifetime injury causing IPV.
- In DRC, risk of both IPV and sexual violence were increased by both war and displacement.
 - The most common perpetrators of sexual violence were acquaintances and community members not armed actors- speaking to the potential normalization of violence not directly linked with conflict

Gender-based Violence - Key Findings

- The study in Mali uses a difference-in-difference approach to match women in conflict versus non-conflict-affected areas to isolate conflict as a driver of increased violence using a rigorous quasi-experimental research design.
 - Women living in conflict-affected areas experienced notable and significant increases in all forms of IPV
 - Increases in women's household decision making autonomy (possibly due to changes in household composition and power dynamics due to war) but decreases women's ability to decide how their earnings are deployed.
- *Overarching finding across countries: Both displacement, and exposure to conflict are both significantly associated with lifetime and recent IPV among women. When we add both of these abuses to an adjusted model together, each (displacement and exposure to conflict) independently raises the risk of IPV and sexual violence for women.*
 - *These effects can last years after conflict the conflict is declared over*

Gender-based Violence - Policy Implications

- The effects of conflict can be long-lasting. These kinds of long-term problems so require long- term investment.
- Women bear the brunt of violence as it moves from the public to the private sphere. It is critical to ensure women’s substantive participation in peace negotiations and state-building.
- A complex problem requires a multi-pronged approach.
 - Need to provide stronger GBV-related services to displaced and war-affected populations (including medical care, reporting mechanisms, psychosocial services)
 - Invest in multi-sectoral programs that address harmful gender norms at the individual, household and community levels are vital to transform gender norms and ensure that women can fully and safely participate in society.
- Mental health interventions critical to break cycle of violence. Holistic counseling and mental health services could benefit not only survivors of this violence, but also partners, families and communities

Forced Displacement and Gender Norms

Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich



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Key Findings

Syrian Refugees in Jordan

- Gender role attitudes are similar across generations, but Syrian adolescents are *particularly restricted in their mobility*.
- Boys and girls have *similar educational outcomes but inequality in domestic work is substantial*. Higher levels of own and mother's *decision making predict lower domestic workloads*.

IDPs in Colombia

- Gender norms that tolerate *violence against women become less traditional* with displacement, while those that limit women's *economic opportunities become more rigid*.
- *Misalignment between attitudes and behaviors* in specific domains of gender norms: displacement is associated with *less traditional patriarchal attitudes, but women's decision-making power around contraception, and work also diminishes*.

The two studies suggest that gender attitudes and gender norms do not always shift together, and do not always progress toward gender equality during forced displacement. Moreover, attitudes and norms can shift without corresponding changes in behavior, at least within the time frames of the studies.

Policy Implications

Syrian Refugees in Jordan

- Jobs skills programs should *encourage safe mobility and access to safe spaces* where girls can build social networks, alongside life and psychosocial skills (e.g., Makani Centers in Jordan); *engage girls' families and communities* in socially conservative settings as they act as gatekeepers.

IDPs in Colombia

- Ensuring access to *contraception* through *universal health coverage schemes*, provide *information* to increase men's support for methods; include *built-in guidelines in economic empowerment* programs for the protection of women, *engage men* in promoting more gender-equitable relationships; battery of interventions for *GBV prevention and response*.