

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT: Broadening our Understanding of GBV in Conflict-Affected Settings

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**GENDER DIMENSIONS OF
FORCED DISPLACEMENT**

Understanding Inequality Through Data & Analysis



Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement

Global context

- Over 80 million people -- one percent of the globe's population – have been forcibly displaced. This is the **highest level on record**¹

- **Complex drivers** for forced displacement²

1. UNHCR. 2020. *Global Trends in Forced Displacement*. Geneva: UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/60b638e37/unhcr-global-trends-2020?deliveryName=DM113247>

2. United Nations (2019) Conflict related sexual violence: report of the United Nations Secretary-General. (Report No. S/2019/280). New York: United Nations

Global context

- **Women represent 51%** of the refugee and internally displaced population worldwide¹
- **Gender-based violence (GBV)** is both a **driver** of forced displacement **and a risk**²
- The COVID pandemic has **exacerbated existing gender inequalities**³

1. UNHCR (2020b) Mid-year Trends: Global Trends for Forced Displacement 2020. Copenhagen: UNHCR. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/statistics/unhcrstats/5fc504d44/mid-year-trends-2020.html>

2. United Nations (2019) Conflict related sexual violence: report of the United Nations Secretary-General. (Report No. S/2019/280). New York: United Nations

3. Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) and Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). 2021. Women, Peace, and Security Index 2021/22: Tracking sustainable peace through inclusion, justice, and security for women. Chapter 2. Washington, DC: GIWPS and PRIO. <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WPS-Index-2021.pdf>

Motivation – A gap in the literature – expanding our focus

- SCR 1325 – Adopted in 2000 - Women, Peace and Security
- SCR 1820 – Adopted in 2008 - Focus on Sexual Violence as a weapon of war.
- Subsequent resolutions 1888 (2009) – establishes SGSR-SV/UN Action, 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2331 (2016) and 2467 (2019) underlie the need to address conflict related sexual violence.
- Violence against women and girls is a continuum – experienced before, during and after conflict
- Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement

Approach and Methods

- **Three studies**, spanning **four different countries** (Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Mali)
- Goal is to examine the impact of **both displacement and exposure to conflict** on multiple forms of GBV using existing data
- Across all models in each paper, we **adjusted** for numerous other **known risk factors** for GBV

Approach and Methods – Three papers

Colombia and Liberia	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Mali
Data source: ACLED, UCDP and Demographics and Health Surveys: Colombia 2010, Liberia 2007	Data source: 2018 population-based survey in eastern region	Data Source: ACLED and Demographic and Health Surveys: Mali 2006, Mali 2018
Comparative study leveraging multi-level modeling to look at drivers of IPV in two very different conflict-affected countries	Population based study looking at both exposure to conflict as well as past and current displacement as risk factors for both IPV and non-partner sexual violence	Difference-in-difference approach to match women in conflict versus non-conflict-affected areas to isolate conflict as a driver of increased violence

Key Findings – Colombia-Liberia Study

- 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 from IPV**

Key Findings – DRC Study

- 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

Key Findings – Mali Study

- 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 Findings and Implications

- Both displacement **and** exposure to conflict are both **significantly associated with IPV and non-partner sexual violence** among women
- When we add both of these experiences to an adjusted model together, (displacement and exposure to conflict) **each independently** raises the risk of **IPV and sexual violence** for women
 - These effects can last years after conflict the conflict is declared over
- The effects of conflict can be **long-lasting**. These kinds of long-term problems so **require long-term investment**

Overarching Findings and Implications

- 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

Global context

- The 2018 Global Compact on Refugees notes that “**climate, environmental degradation and disasters** increasingly interact with the **drivers of refugee movements**”
- The World Bank projects that **climate-induced displacement** in some of the world’s most fragile regions will push **tens of millions of people to migrate** within their countries by 2050¹

1. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29461>