

THEMATIC SERIES
HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Children, women, older people, men, youth, people living with disabilities and people from marginalised groups all experience internal displacement differently. This thematic series investigates the various ways in which people's lives can be affected in relation with their pre-existing characteristics.

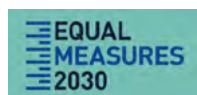


WOMEN AND GIRLS
in internal displacement

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Cover photo: Ahlam is a 27 years old woman who lives in Algarad, the internally displaced camp in Lahj Governorate, Yemen. Widowed from the Taiz conflict in 2018, she is without support while looking after her four children. Credit: NRC/Ingrid Prestetun, February 2018

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"Everyone fled on their own, leaving everything behind." Elamegi Kankologo, a 26-year-old mother of four, poses with her baby in her arms, surrounded by other women from the village of Mbulungu, Kasai-Central province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: NRC/Alexis Huguet, August 2018

SUMMARY

More than 41 million people worldwide were living in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2018 as a result of conflict and violence.¹ More than half, or nearly 21 million, were women and girls. These figures would be much higher if those displaced by disasters and climate change were included.

There were at least 2.6 million internally displaced girls under five, 4.6 million between five and 14, 3.9 million between 15 and 24, 7.9 million between 25 and 59, and 1.7 million women over 60.

At the regional level, sub-Saharan Africa had the highest number of internally displaced women and girls, accounting for 8.2 million or 40 per cent of the global figure. The Middle East and North Africa had 5.5 million, the Americas 3.4 million, South Asia 1.8 million, Europe and Central Asia 1.5 million and East Asia and the Pacific 400,000.

There were nine countries with more than a million internally displaced women and girls as of the end of 2018: Syria, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan. Estimates for 48 countries disaggregated by age group are presented in the annex to this report.

Knowing how many women and girls are displaced, how old they are and the conditions they live in is essential if they are to be provided with the right resources to meet their specific needs. Displacement reinforces pre-existing discrimination and socioeconomic disadvantages. Women often face greater challenges than men in securing a decent livelihood in displacement, with repercussions on their ability to find shelter and security and to access education and healthcare. They also tend to be less able to make their voices heard or participate in decisions on matters that affect them. They are often more likely to flee in the face of conflict, violence, disasters and climate change, and are therefore at greater risk of displacement.

Displaced women and girls require tailored support and protection to ensure their safety and ability to exercise their rights. The normative framework relevant to their situation is fairly comprehensive, but implementation lags far behind in many countries. Better data and analysis can help to improve policies and programmes, but if this does not lead to concrete responses backed by sufficient funds, the impacts of displacement on women's and girls' lives will remain unaddressed.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the first international framework to acknowledge that internal displacement is a development as well as a humanitarian concern. Its goals will, however, not be achieved by 2030 unless the phenomenon as a whole and the plight of displaced women and girls in particular receive greater attention. This includes ensuring they are able to achieve durable solutions to their displacement, through investments and interventions that focus on gender equality from humanitarian and development stakeholders alike.

INTRODUCTION

More than half of the 41 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world at the end of 2018 were women and girls. They experience displacement differently from men and boys, and face specific challenges that must be better understood to provide them with the support they need.

This report presents the first global, regional and national estimates of the number of women and girls living in a situation of internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence. Internal displacement situations associated with disasters are also discussed.

The key figures are complemented with an overview of the most commonly reported impacts of displacement on women and girls, drawing on existing literature and original data collection and analysis conducted for this report.

Displaced women and girls tend to be at greater risk of deprivation, insecurity, abuse, neglect and a general deterioration of their wellbeing. Their sex and age also often impede them from making their voices heard or participating in decisions on matters that affect them.²

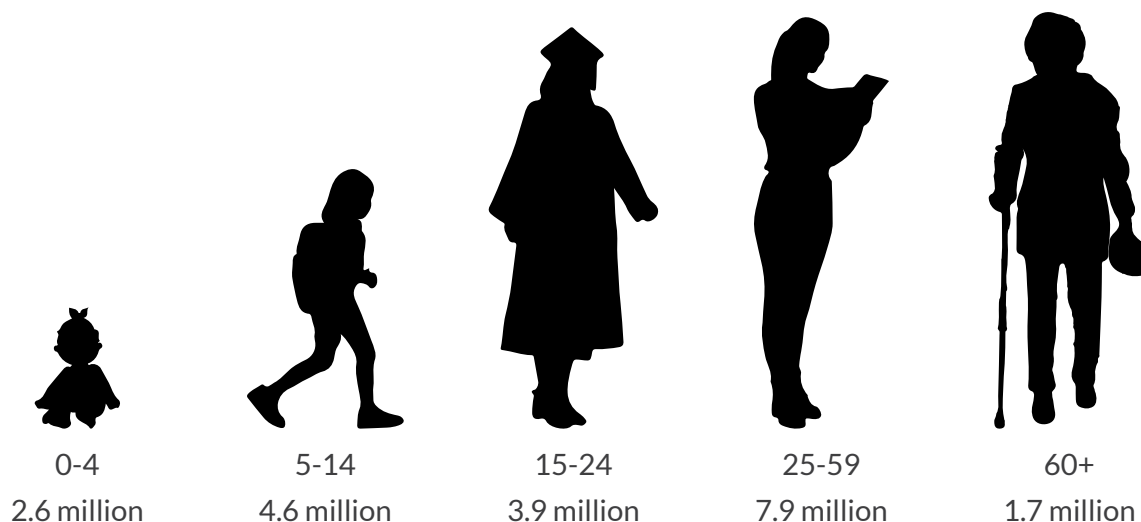
With adequate support in an enabling environment, however, they can seize opportunities to overcome these challenges. This report highlights examples of good practices and successful initiatives from around the world, and discusses some of the policy options governments and aid providers can consider.



A woman displaced by drought makes bread in the Kharistan displacement settlement in Qala-e-naw, Afghanistan. Photo: NRC/Enayatullah Azad, 2018

KEY FIGURES

FIGURE 1: Global estimate of the number of women and girls living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of 2018, by age group



21 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS

Conflict, violence, disasters, climate change and other factors force millions of people to flee their homes each year. More than 41 million people worldwide were living in internal displacement at the end of 2018 as a result of conflict and violence alone, not accounting for disasters and climate change (see box 1).³ More than half, or nearly 21 million, were women and girls.

There were at least 2.6 million internally displaced girls under five, 4.6 million between five and 14, 3.9 million between 15 and 24, 7.9 million between 25 and 59, and 1.7 million women over 60 (see figure 1).

Information on the age of displaced women and girls is important because it helps to determine their specific needs in terms of nutrition, education, health, vocational training and employment, for instance.

In 2018, however, only 14 per cent of the countries and territories for which IDMC collected data on IDPs published information disaggregated by sex and age. Of them, only 25 per cent did so systematically.

BOX 1: WHY ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING IN INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AS A RESULT OF DISASTERS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR?

The global number of women and men living in internal displacement as a result of disasters at any given point in time remains unknown. This is because information on what becomes of them tends to stop being collected after a certain point.

Only a few data sources track this type of displacement beyond the evacuation and early recovery phase of a disaster. For more than half of the largest events recorded since 2008, data was only collected for up to a month.⁴

For displacement associated with conflict and violence, in which humanitarian organisations are more involved, enough information is available to estimate the number of IDPs at the end of each year. These estimates are the basis for the figures on displaced women and girls presented in this report.

Given the limited amount of quality information available, we estimated the number of displaced women in different age groups using national sex and age distribution data. For each country considered, we applied the percentage of women in each group as per the UN

Population Division's World Population Prospects 2019 to the number of people living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of 2018, published in our Global Report on Internal Displacement.⁵

BOX 2: WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Conflict and violence have displaced millions of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since the early 1990s. The eastern provinces of North and South Kivu, Tanganyika, and Ituri and the central Kasai region have experienced large-scale displacement in recent years.⁸

IDMC estimated that there were more than three million people internally displaced across the country at the end of 2018, a highly conservative figure which does not include data for the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu.⁹ Using national demographic distribution data, we can estimate the number of internally displaced women in the DRC at 1,543,000, or about 50 per cent of this total (see annex). Evidence from various locations, however, shows that this proportion is often higher in reality.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is one of the providers of data on internal displacement in eastern DRC. Its displacement tracking matrix (DTM) conducted baseline assessments for 4,430 villages in five territories of Ituri and 1,703 villages in three territories of North Kivu in

2019. Key informants were asked to estimate how many displaced men and women their villages were hosting. Data disaggregated by sex was also collected for 29,587 people in 11 displacement sites in North Kivu.

In host communities and displacement sites, women and girls represented 56 or 62 per cent of the total (see figure 2).

The higher proportion of women compared to men is often linked to underlying socioeconomic factors, as well as local conflict dynamics. In many places, women are more likely to be living and working near their homes, on their family's land for example, at the time of an armed attack. This makes

them more likely to flee for safety with dependent family members.

In contrast, men are more likely to work further away from home. In areas where armed groups are prevalent, they may be seen as parties to the conflict, making it unsafe for them to flee to other areas.

However, these findings can change depending on the context. An assessment of IDPs in Beni territory in North Kivu for example, showed that men represented 60 per cent of IDPs in that area.¹⁰ This difference may be due to the specific nature of the conflict in Beni: men and boys were more likely to flee pre-emptively, fearing highly prevalent forced recruitment into armed groups.

FIGURE 2: Percentage of women in DRC's internally displaced population, as per IOM-DTM data¹¹

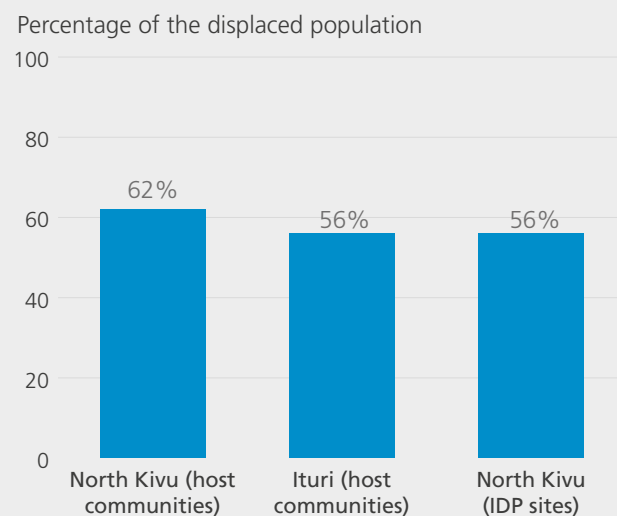


TABLE 1: Number of women living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of 2018 by region and age group, estimated using national age distribution data

Region	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-59	60+	All women and girls
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,323,000	2,203,000	1,653,000	2,611,000	422,000	8,214,000
Middle East and North Africa	643,000	1,189,000	1,031,000	2,221,000	368,000	5,454,000
Americas	248,000	507,000	568,000	1,581,000	446,000	3,352,000
South Asia	234,000	446,000	370,000	627,000	104,000	1,781,000
Europe and Central Asia	95,000	193,000	186,000	726,000	299,000	1,501,000
East Asia and Pacific	33,000	70,000	69,000	177,000	42,000	392,000
Global	2,578,000	4,610,000	3,879,000	7,944,000	1,683,000	20,697,000

**Some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures because they have been rounded*

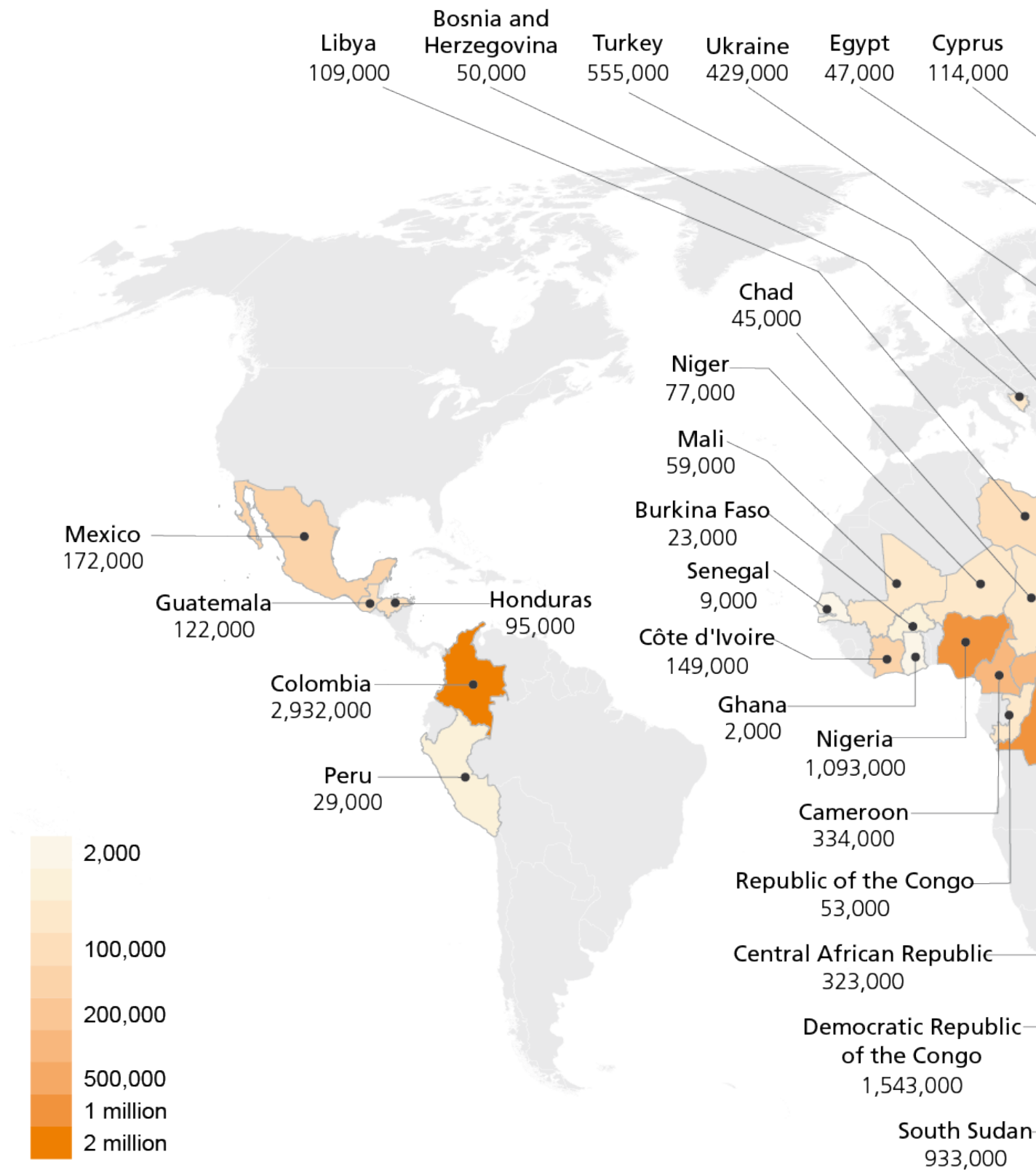
This leads to underestimates for several reasons. The figures generated do not include women displaced by causes other than conflict and violence, and they only cover about 50 countries and territories for which information is available. In some cases, parts of the affected territory in a country are not covered by data collection. The proportion of women and girls in internally displaced populations is often found to be higher than in the national population (see box 2).

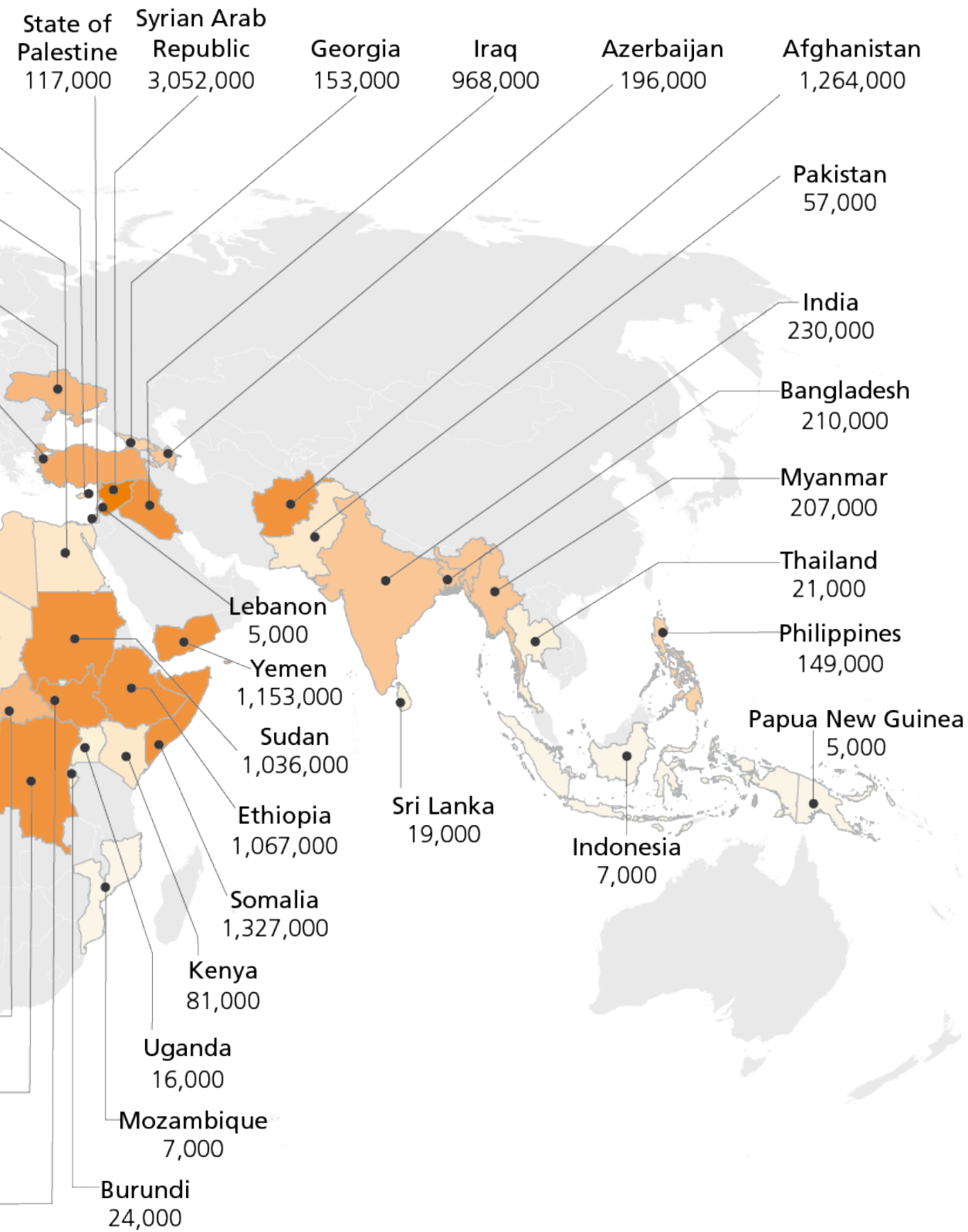
In Burkina Faso for instance, violence led to a ten-fold increase in displacements in 2019. Hundreds of thousands of people were uprooted from their homes. According to the Council for Emergency Relief and Recovery (CONASUR), the government-led agency in charge of collecting data on displacement, 65 per cent of adult IDPs are women, compared with 50 per cent of the national population. This is likely to be linked to the fact that many men are forcibly recruited by armed groups and so are unable to flee with the women.⁶ This raises significant protection concerns for displaced women and girls.⁷

At the regional level, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest number of internally displaced women, accounting for 8.2 million or 40 per cent of the global figure. The Middle East and North Africa has 5.5 million women, the Americas 3.4 million, South Asia 1.8 million, Europe and Central Asia 1.5 million and East Asia and the Pacific 400,000.

Nine countries had more than 1 million women and girls displaced by conflict and violence as of the end of 2018: Syria, Colombia, DRC, Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan. More precise estimates for 48 countries disaggregated by age group are presented in the annex to this report.

MAP 1: Global distribution of women living in internal displacement triggered by conflict and violence as of the end of 2018





IMPACTS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

Estimating the number of displaced women and ascertaining their age and living conditions are the first steps towards designing better policies and programmes to support them and dedicating adequate resources tailored to their needs (see box 3). Displacement tends to lead to a deterioration in living conditions for all. Some displaced women may experience fewer challenges than their male counterparts, who face their own specific risks, but evidence shows that overall they are more severely affected.¹²

Displacement reinforces harmful pre-existing gender norms that perpetuate socioeconomic disadvantages. Women, who are not as engaged as men in formal employment, tend to be even less so once displaced. The same applies to girls and education. Displacement's repercussions may have long-term consequences for women's and girls' development and that of their families and communities. Addressing these repercussions is both a humanitarian and a development concern.

LIVELIHOODS

Internal displacement often leads to a deterioration of living standards because IDPs tend to lose their property, assets, capital, income and livelihoods. They also often struggle to find new livelihood opportunities in host areas. This is true for men and women alike, but women face greater challenges.

Ethiopia recorded the highest number of new displacements in 2018, with about 2.9 million associated with conflict and violence, and nearly 300,000 associated with disasters.¹⁴ There were around 580,000 women between the ages of 15 and 59 living in displacement as a result of conflict and violence as of the end of the year (see annex).

A survey of 150 IDPs living in a settlement in the Oromia region showed that 35 per cent of women became unemployed as a result of their displacement, compared with 30 per cent of men.¹⁵ Forty per cent of the women

BOX 3: WHY ARE AGE AND OTHER FORMS OF DIVERSITY IMPORTANT IN UNDERSTANDING WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACEMENT?

Various elements of a person's identity determine how others view and attribute value and power to them, and age is one of the most important aspects of a person's identity. People face different barriers to exercising their rights at each stage of their lives.

Women are all too often treated as a homogeneous group, with no differences drawn between the needs and experiences of young or adolescent girls, or young, middle-aged and older women.

Internally displaced girls in the Lake Chad basin in central Africa, for example, face challenges that differ from boys and adult women.¹³ They are less likely to be in education or have access to health services, they are at greater

risk of gender-based violence and their freedom of movement is restricted. They also uniquely suffer the risk of early and forced marriage.

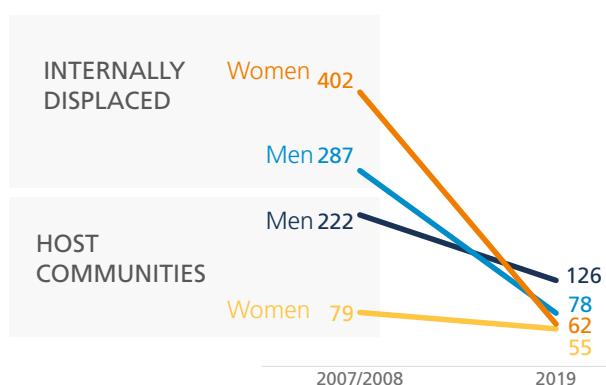
Women of other ages experience other barriers to services and livelihood opportunities, all of which makes data disaggregated by sex and age a prerequisite for humanitarian and development plans that cater to their specific needs.

who had lost their job were still unemployed, compared with 20 per cent of men. Only nine per cent of men and seven per cent of women continued earning money in the same way they did before their flight. Among those able to find work, men reported an average monthly income of \$55 and women \$47.

Another survey, which was conducted in Nakuru county in Kenya in 2019 among 150 IDPs who fled their homes just over a decade ago and 150 members of their host community, found that all interviewees' monthly income had dropped significantly over the last decade. The decline, however, was much sharper among IDPs and particularly so for displaced women (see figure 3).¹⁶

A number of the surveyed displaced women had held qualified jobs such as teachers in their home areas, but they were unable to re-establish the same level of income after more than a decade in displacement. They suffered competition for work from host community members and discrimination, and lived far from potential job opportunities. Most IDPs live in settlements outside towns and have few means of transport.

FIGURE 3: Evolution of the reported average monthly income from work for surveyed men and women in the displaced and host communities in Nakuru county, Kenya, between 2007 and 2019



Separation from or loss of male family members may leave displaced women as heads of household, which puts them under increased financial strain and exposes them and their dependents to various forms of insecurity. They may also be unable to receive aid if the male head of household is listed as sole recipient.

In countries where women have no legal right to property, those displaced may have no way of re-establishing themselves and their lives elsewhere. Without being able to own or rent a house, they may end up living

in camps or informal settlements where few livelihood opportunities are available. Internal displacement can have a lasting impact on women's ability to access and maintain livelihoods (see box 4).

BOX 4: EMPLOYMENT AND WORK-RELATED CHALLENGES FOR DISPLACED WOMEN IN IRAQ

An assessment conducted by UN Women and REACH in 2019 in Iraq shed light on the specific challenges faced by internally displaced women in accessing and maintaining decent livelihoods.¹⁷ Of the 260 displaced women interviewed, 54 per cent were employed, 23 per cent unemployed but seeking employment and 23 per cent unemployed and not seeking employment. The figures for women in the host community were similar, at 57, 23 and 20 per cent.

Forty-three per cent of the displaced women who were unemployed but seeking employment said they faced challenges in accessing livelihoods, compared with 38 per cent of those from the host community in the same position.

Increased competition for jobs associated with the influx of IDPs was the most commonly reported challenge across all interviewees, followed by insufficient education and lack of relevant skills and experience.

The assessment also reveals barriers to employment specific to displacement. The relatively low school enrolment rate among IDPs, for example, prevented some displaced mothers from looking for work because they had to be at home to care for their children.

Long-term concerns also emerge in the disparity between school enrolment for girls and boys, which is particularly high among IDPs. This has the potential to disproportionately limit future livelihood opportunities for girls.

Displaced women working in the agricultural sector also said access to land for cultivation and lack of transport was an issue.

SECURITY

Internal displacement heightens the risk women and girls face of gender-based violence because it separates them from their communities and sometimes the families that might otherwise protect them. Displaced girls living in camps are particularly vulnerable to targeting by traffickers and other opportunists, and camps in general tend to be particularly hostile environments for women and girls.¹⁸ The presence of armed men, including security forces, nearby is also an issue.¹⁹ The deterioration in housing conditions that displacement tends to involve also leave IDPs more vulnerable to intrusion and attack.

Living in unfamiliar surroundings and barriers to social integration pose new threats to all IDPs, and particularly women and girls. Twenty-seven per cent of surveyed internally displaced households in Iraq and 15 per cent of those in internal displacement settlements in Somalia said women and girls reportedly avoided particular locations because they felt unsafe.²⁰

Some studies point to an increase in domestic violence following displacement, potentially linked to higher levels of stress and trauma. The most common type of violence displaced women in Colombia reported facing was inflicted by their partners, including forced

sex, forced abortions, control over contraception and physical violence during pregnancy.²¹ More than half of displaced women in Colombia have experienced domestic violence, compared with 41 per cent of their counterparts in the general population.²² Around two-thirds of displaced women surveyed in Afghanistan reported domestic violence, and 12 per cent said it had become more common since their displacement.²³

The loss of livelihood opportunities associated with displacement is also a source of insecurity for women and girls. They may be forced to engage in transactional sex to survive, with heightened risks of violence and abuse.

In other cases, insecurity forces girls to stay at home instead of going to school, decreasing their chance of a decent livelihood in the future. It also prevents both girls and women from accessing essential services and participating in community life.²⁴

Adolescent girls are at heightened risk of early marriage. Faced with insecurity, increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence and the break-down of rule of law, families and parents may see child marriage as a coping mechanism to deal with increased economic hardship, to protect girls from sexual violence, or to protect the honour of the family in response to the disruption of social networks and routines. The prevalence of child marriage among IDPs and returnee children in Iraq increased in 2018 compared with previous years as protracted displacement depleted families' resources.²⁵ A similar rise has also been documented among people displaced by drought in Afghanistan and Somalia.²⁶

The impact of child marriage can be severe and long-lasting. Girls who marry before 18 are more likely to experience domestic violence and less likely to remain in school.²⁷ It may also increase the risk of sexually transmitted infections and early pregnancies, and cause long-term psychological harm.²⁸



"Sometimes I go to the forest and collect wild fruit and firewood. When I'm in the forest, I'm afraid of wild animals and being raped." Displaced woman, South Sudan, 2018. Photo: Ingrid Prestetun/INRC

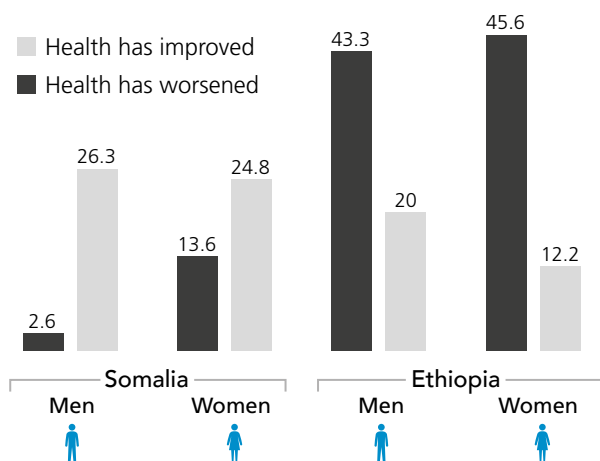
HEALTH

Women and girls have specific health needs that can be more difficult to meet during displacement. This may be the result of several factors including the limited availability of services and facilities, stigma related to sexual and reproductive health, a lack of child-friendly and gender-sensitive information, and financial capacity.

Two surveys conducted in 2019 on a sample of 150 IDPs each – one involving people displaced by drought in Somalia, the other people displaced by violence in Ethiopia – show that more women than men felt their physical health had deteriorated since their displacement (see figure 4).²⁹ In Somalia, access to healthcare for people coming to the capital city from under-serviced rural areas improved, probably leading to the overall perception that physical health had improved compared to before they were displaced. In Ethiopia, the overall perception of health worsened as surveyed IDPs moved to a displacement camp where access to healthcare was reduced compared to their home area.

In both cases, a higher percentage of surveyed women than men felt that their health had worsened compared to before they were displaced (in red).

FIGURE 4: Percentage of surveyed IDPs in Somalia and Ethiopia who felt their physical health had worsened or improved since their displacement



Women's and girls' inability to afford contraception or access age-sensitive reproductive health counselling, stigma surrounding sexual and reproductive health and other factors can lead to unintended pregnancies. Pregnant women and girls who have been displaced

receive less antenatal care and are more exposed to violence, malnutrition, poor hygiene conditions and communicable diseases than non-displaced women and girls. This is particularly severe for adolescent girls who are under even greater risk of suffering from maternal mortality and morbidity. They may also be abandoned without healthcare or other support if they are unable to flee when the rest of their community leaves.³⁰ As a result, their children may be born with complications or in poor health, heightening the risk of premature death.

"We do not have ambulances, so we have to carry pregnant women to health facilities. Sometimes the women give birth on the way. We have access to healthcare, but we do not get quality services."

LEADER OF A DISPLACEMENT SETTLEMENT IN OROMIA, ETHIOPIA, 2019.³¹

Fifty-two per cent of households living in internal displacement settlements in Somalia and 34 per cent of internally displaced households in Afghanistan said pregnant women gave birth outside a healthcare facility.³² The latter compares with 18 per cent of host community households.³³ Twenty-five per cent of internally displaced households in Iraq also said that women in their households who were of reproductive age had no access to specialised healthcare.³⁴

Displaced and returnee women and girls suffer more from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety than displaced men and non-displaced women.³⁵ This may be linked with the disruption of their social lives, the increased risk of violence they face and poor living conditions, including the lack of privacy and hygiene facilities in substandard settlements.

EDUCATION

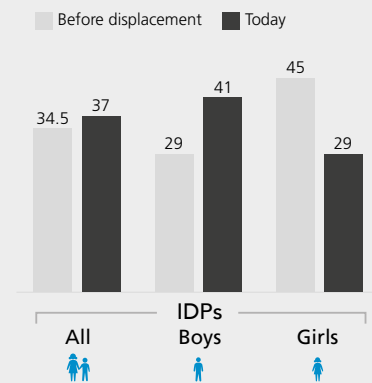
The consequences of displacement can last for a lifetime, particularly when it interrupts education and limits future opportunities, and this tends to be more the case for girls than boys. Displacement often aggravates gendered harmful social norms that discriminate and devalue girls' education, which together with gender-based violence at school, at home or in the community, early marriage and pregnancy, create major obstacles to learning. If current trends persist, only one in three girls in crisis-affected countries may have access to secondary education by 2030.³⁶

BOX 5: DISPLACED GIRLS' EDUCATION IN BANADIR, SOMALIA

Research among 163 families displaced by drought and 160 households in the host community in Banadir, near Mogadishu, shows that 41 per cent of displaced boys were in education compared with 29 per cent before their displacement.³⁷ This may be the result of better access to schools in their urban settlement than in their rural home area, and the fact that boys no longer have to look after livestock and are free to attend school.

Girls' enrolment, however, decreased from 45 to 29 per cent (see figure 5). By comparison, nearly all host community children were in school.

FIGURE 5: Percentage of internally displaced children in school before and during displacement



Interviewees said the main reason for not sending their children to school was the cost, which they put at an average of \$5 a month for both boys and girls. Parents with higher income, who earn between \$60 and \$150 a month, were equally likely to send their boys and girls to school, but those earning less than \$55 a month prioritised their boys (see figure 6).

These findings suggest that although there may be greater access to schools in urban areas than rural areas, financial difficulties continue to represent a significant barrier to education. When families cannot afford to send all their children to school, they seem to give priority to boys, perpetuating gender and socioeconomic disparities on to the next generation.

FIGURE 6: Percentage of internally displaced boys and girls in school during displacement by income group



A number of studies suggest that families in Somalia value investments in boys' education more than girls', given an expectation that girls will marry young and stay at home.³⁸

Other factors cited that prevent parents from enrolling their daughters in school include a shortage of female-only toilets, a lack of female teachers, concerns about girls' safety outside the home, and the need for them to help with domestic chores.³⁹



Displaced children arriving in Tumaco, Colombia, in 2016 were not always able to enrol in school when in their host area. Those out of school, particularly girls, faced a heightened risk of sexual violence. Photo: NRC/Edgar León

“Not all girls finish their education. Girls stop to get married, because of pregnancy or because of rape.”

DISPLACED 18-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN CAMEROON, 2018.⁴⁰

Research in Afghanistan shows that 76 per cent of internally displaced girls between the ages of 13 and 18 are not enrolled in education, compared with 57 per cent of boys.⁴¹ For those aged six to 12, the figures are 68 and 57 per cent. In Iraq, 25 per cent of girls and 19 per cent of boys were not in school, compared with nine per cent of girls and 12 per cent of boys among host community children.⁴²

In Somalia, only 22 per cent of displaced girls over five in Mogadishu had ever attended school as of 2016, compared with 37 per cent of boys.⁴³ Research conducted in 2019 also shows that displacement disrupts girls’ education more than it does boys’ (see box 5).

Displacement from a rural to an urban area, or even to a well-resourced camp, sometimes improves children’s access to schooling. This was the case in Kosovo, where girls’ enrolment rate in primary education was higher in displacement camps than in their home area. The same was not true, however, of secondary education, which girls were also less likely to finish than boys.⁴⁴

Internal displacement tends to aggravate existing obstacles to girls’ education and create new ones, with potentially long-term implications for their economic opportunities, social wellbeing and mental health. Tackling these issues is key to the achievement of durable solutions and ensuring universal and sustainable socio-economic development.

DISPLACEMENT RISK

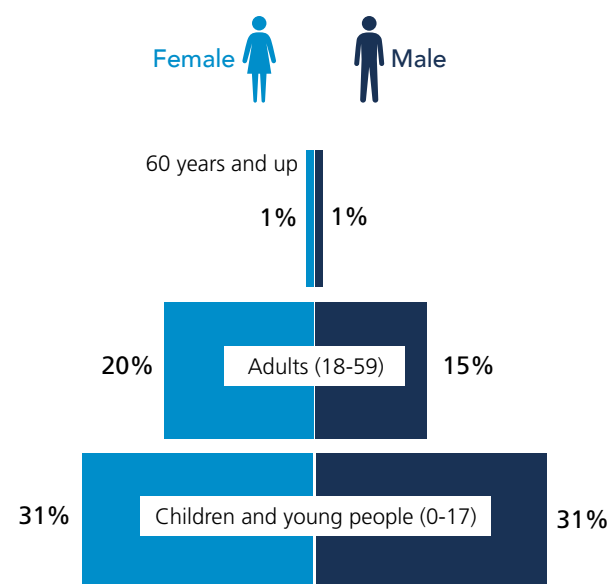
Women are not only more vulnerable to certain impacts of displacement, they are also more likely to be displaced in the first place. Quantitative data on this issue is very limited, but the proportion of women among IDPs is often higher than among the general population. In the case of conflict this may be because men stay behind to fight or are killed in battle.

Women worldwide also tend to achieve lower levels of socioeconomic development than men, particularly as heads of household.⁴⁵ This makes them less able

to recover from the financial losses that result from a disaster and repair or rebuild their home. It may make it more difficult for them to sustain the loss of livelihoods linked with climate change, pushing them to abandon an agro-pastoral lifestyle earlier than men, who have more assets and capital to draw on.

After cyclone Idai struck Mozambique in March 2019, the proportion of women aged 18 to 59 in emergency shelters was higher than that of men (see figure 7).⁴⁶ One explanation might be that adult men were more likely to stay in their damaged home to repair it or protect it from thieves.

FIGURE 7: Demographic profile of people in emergency shelters after cyclone Idai, April 2019⁴⁷



Accommodation centres, April snapshot

Women’s greater vulnerability to many types of violence may also encourage them to abandon their homes faster than men. Gender-based violence has been cited as one of the main causes of displacement in situations of widespread criminal violence and conflict, where women and families with daughters flee the risk of rape.

More research is needed to investigate the extent to which women are at greater risk of displacement than men, under which particular conditions and how this risk can be mitigated.

TOWARDS BETTER SUPPORT

Internally displaced women and girls require tailored support and protection to ensure their safety and ability to exercise their rights. A growing awareness of IDPs' plight and the specific challenges women and girls face before, during and after displacement has led to the development of a dedicated normative framework since the 1990s.

The cornerstone of this framework are the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which were published in 1998 to set out IDPs' rights and states' obligations toward their displaced populations.⁴⁸ They emphasise that particular efforts should be made to address the needs of displaced women and girls to ensure their full and equal access to health, education and other services.

The Guiding Principles are not legally binding, but they have been incorporated into numerous national frameworks. At the regional level, they have also been incorporated into the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, widely known as the Kampala Convention, and the 2006 International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Protocol on Internally Displaced Persons.⁴⁹ Both oblige state parties to take special protection measures for displaced women.

The 2005 Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Internally Displaced Persons, known as the Pinheiro Principles, and the 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons also contain specific provisions to promote women's and girls' rights.⁵⁰

The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action sets out a comprehensive list of strategic objectives for governments and other stakeholders to assist displaced women (see box 6 and figure 8).⁵¹

BOX 6: THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION






2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Platform for Action), one of the most comprehensive global policy frameworks for gender equality.⁵² Produced at the Fourth World Conference on Women, it is a landmark text that sets out concrete commitments by governments and other stakeholders to empower women and girls, including those who are displaced.

It identifies protection, assistance and training for displaced women as a key strategic objective, and outlines actions that governments should take to address their specific needs in terms of livelihoods, education, health, security and shelter (see figure 8).

The Platform for Action has been adopted by 189 countries and is reviewed every five years. The last review in 2015 revealed that despite significant achievements, progress and implementation at a national level had been slow and uneven.⁵³ It found that special programmes had been established for displaced women and girls, but that greater efforts to ensure access to essential services such as reproductive healthcare were needed.⁵⁴

The 25-year review scheduled for March 2020 will provide an opportunity to see whether governments have taken measures to address these gaps and ensure their commitments are translated into action.

FIGURE 8: Key commitments made by governments and other stakeholders towards displaced women under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

LIVELIHOODS	EDUCATION	HEALTH	SECURITY	SHELTER
				
<p>Ensure they have full access to economic opportunities (58(l))</p> <p>Ensure they have access to quality education & training to improve their work opportunities (82(k))</p>	<p>Ensure they have equal access to education (147(f)) & improve literacy rates (81(a))</p> <p>Facilitate the availability of educational materials in appropriate language to minimise disruption to their children’s education (147(g))</p>	<p>Ensure they have equal access to social & health services, including reproductive health-care & maternity care (147(f))</p>	<p>Take steps to protect their safety & physical integrity & provide justice (147(c))</p> <p>Eliminate violence against them (126(d))</p>	<p>Ensure they have equal access to food, water & shelter (147(f))</p>

Women’s and girls’ rights are also protected whether or not they are displaced under the 1979 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁵⁵

This comprehensive normative framework is useful in establishing minimum standards to guide governments in their responsibility to assist and find durable solutions for displaced women and girls. The challenge, however, lies in translating principles and commitments into concrete action and results.

One recurring issue is the lack of detailed information on displaced women’s and girls’ needs. Even their number, location and age is rarely known. Some organisations including IOM and IMPACT Initiatives collect and publish data disaggregated by sex regularly, but they do not operate in every country and mostly cover protracted, conflict-related situations.

This information is collected predominantly through household-level probability sample-based surveys and purposively sampled key informant interviews. Focus group discussions are also used to understand the

differences in perspectives and experiences between internally displaced men and women.

In 2019, IMPACT Initiatives, through its REACH initiative, conducted statistically representative multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) with households across nine protracted crises, through which at least some information was collected on the conditions of women and girls in displaced households. The majority of the data was collected via household-level interviews, in which one representative responds on behalf of all members. This is an efficient way to capture broad conditions in the household, but it means women and girls are not necessarily asked directly about their perspectives.

Collecting accurate data in sometimes hard-to-reach locations where insecurity and lack of transport and communications may be obstacles is extremely resource-intensive. In some cases, however, alternative information sources can be used, including mobile phone and social media data (see box 7).

BOX 7: COLLECTING GENDER-DISAGGREGATED DATA ON DISPLACEMENT THROUGH FACEBOOK

IDMC has been working with Facebook as part of its Data for Good initiative to improve their Disaster Maps product since 2017, specifically the methodology on measuring IDPs and supporting the release of this data in its Disaster Maps products through a portal called GeoInsights.⁵⁶ This new source of displacement data from Facebook has complemented IDMC's analysis and allowed researchers, responders, and planners to have a better sense of how many people have been displaced, where they have been displaced from, where they have been displaced to, and for how long.

The platform publishes aggregated and de-identified data from the application's users who have enabled location history. Using mobile phone localisation data, it is able to determine

estimates of the number of IDPs from disaster events.⁵⁷

Displacement data can also be disaggregated by gender. This provides valuable insight into how disasters affect men and women differently. For the first time, differences in the rates-of-return between men and women can be inferred during natural hazards recorded in different countries. This could be used to highlight inequalities between men and women in times of crisis, allowing humanitarian aid and governmental agencies to respond with more appropriate and gender-sensitive provisions and strategies that better correspond to the displaced demographic.

In addition to the location data that comes from the Facebook mobile app, IDMC and Facebook have been developing and launching surveys that ask Facebook users about their displacement experience. This improves

the accuracy of the Displacement Maps data by asking the user to confirm whether they were displaced by the event. This survey data, run on the Facebook platform in the weeks following a disaster, can also be used to highlight and provide more demographic and contextual details for people displaced.

In October 2019, Typhoon Hagibis, the strongest typhoon to strike mainland Japan in decades, destroyed 3,200 houses and forced more than 237,000 people to evacuate to government shelters according to official estimates.⁵⁸ A key question that remains unanswered is how many of them found shelter with relatives during this disaster event. In addition to showing the scale of displacement at a specific moment in time, Facebook's data provides additional information about the origin and destination of the displaced people and the duration of their displacement.

This information is further complemented by a survey launched in December 2019 aimed at understanding and validating the movements and decisions taken by displaced Facebook users.

Initial findings from the survey illustrate that women are twice as likely to base their decision to evacuate on a decision by a family member or as a family unit, rather than basing the decision on their judgment alone. Men are more likely to decide for themselves, amongst other differences highlighted in the survey that are being investigated.



Japanese families evacuate after Typhoon Hagibis hit their town of Marumori. Photo: Shutterstock/Moses Cao, October 2019

More data disaggregated by sex would help to paint a better picture of displacement situations, and more in-depth qualitative information is needed to capture women's and girls' specific needs. The gender-focused analysis of existing data is another gap, but advances are being made in efforts to close it.

Eighteen of the 20 Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 2018 included a gender analysis of the differentiated impacts of the given crisis on women, men, girls and boys.⁵⁹

Data disaggregated by sex and age was used in at least half of the clusters, including education, food security, health, nutrition and shelter, for 55 per cent of the HNOs, but the combination of data disaggregated by sex and age, together with gender analysis, was only in 45 per cent of them. Data is most often disaggregated by the protection, health and nutrition clusters.

This relatively widespread inclusion of gender considerations in needs assessments is not, however, systematically followed by tailored responses for women and girls. OCHA's Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) for Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen did not include activities that matched the specific needs highlighted in the HNOs, despite each country hosting more than a million displaced women and girls in 2018. Only 56 per cent of the HRPs were produced in direct consultation with local women's organisations.

Greater collaboration between local, national, regional and global stakeholders in collecting, analysing and using gender-specific information would help to improve the support provided to displaced women and girls. The collaborative process led at the national level to produce HNOs and HRPs is one example. The Inclusive Data Charter launched in 2018 as a global initiative to bring various stakeholders together is another (see box 8).

BOX 8: MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Achieving the 2030 Agenda's promise to leave no one behind will only be possible if the data used for decision making covers all population groups and their needs. Too often, however, the poorest and most vulnerable people are almost entirely invisible in data terms. This hinders the development of policies and programmes that might otherwise reach those furthest behind and improve their lives.

The Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) is a multi-stakeholder initiative intended to improve the visibility of marginalised people in data so that no one is left behind in the pursuit and measurement of social and economic progress.⁶⁰

It mobilises political commitments and meaningful action to make data more inclusive and ensure it is disaggregated by gender, sex, age, disability and other characteristics. The charter brings governments and international organisations together with civil society organisations committed to working as IDC Champions to build political will, improve capacity and advance collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The diverse sectoral and geographical focus of the IDC Champions allows for best practices and emerging approaches to be shared, scaled-up, and adapted to different situations. The collaboration the IDC fosters is an example of how partnerships can improve the collection, analysis and use of inclusive and disaggregated data and ensure it is interoperable at the local, national and global level.

Improving and disseminating information on displaced women and girls is not only essential to inform better response plans, but also to generate more investments in national capacities to address their issues.

Supporting women's and girls' access to development opportunities is key to ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other broad development objectives are achieved (see box 9). Given that women often play central roles in their families and communities, they also have much to offer in terms of

providing information about the impacts of displacement and input into initiatives to address them. In short, focusing on women and girls could go a long way towards achieving durable solutions and fostering socioeconomic development for all.

The impacts of displacement are often but not always negative, and it is informative to examine the circumstances and type of support that have helped displaced women and girls to overcome their displacement and seize the opportunities it may present.

BOX 9: DISPLACEMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE SDGS

The Equal Measures 2030 partnership launched the EM2030 SDG Gender Index in 2019 in response to the urgent need for tools to support data-driven analysis and accountability for gender equality in pursuit of the SDGs.⁶¹

The Index measures the state of gender equality across 14 of the 17 SDGs, including issues such as health, gender-based violence, climate change and decent work. It covers 95 per cent of the world's women and girls in 129 countries, providing a picture of where the world stands in terms of the 2030 Agenda's vision of gender equality.

It will be updated every two years until 2030 to track progress or backsliding and to analyse the impacts of political, legal, economic and social factors on girls' and women's lives.

If there is a single takeaway message from the inaugural SDG Gender Index, it is that no country is set to achieve gender equality by 2030. Not one is transforming its laws, policies and public budgets on the scale needed to do so.

The 2030 Agenda includes a central pledge to leave no one behind. Just as gender equality cuts across the framework as an issue vital to its overall success, so too does displacement.

It may come as some surprise then to learn that displaced and stateless people have been all but omitted from SDG reporting to date. They are not systematically included in countries' SDG progress reports, national surveys to determine socioeconomic status and needs or national development and sectoral plans.⁶²

Reliance on household surveys to measure progress means that those living outside traditional households, often the poorest and most marginalised, remain invisible. Governments cannot create policies or allocate budgets for people they cannot see.

Displaced women and girls in countries in the throes of humanitarian emergencies are among the most vulnerable, but sex-disaggregated statistics on IDPs are generally lacking in these contexts.

The SDG Gender Index shows that four out of the nine countries with

the largest number of IDPs worldwide - Syria, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia - are missing from the Index entirely due to challenges around data availability.

Three of the nine countries with the largest populations of IDPs which did have enough data to be included in the index - DRC, Nigeria and Pakistan - are less than halfway to reaching their gender equality targets. Iraq also has a "very poor" score (59 or lower) and one of the lowest outside sub-Saharan Africa, and Colombia has a "poor" score of 67.9.

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that displacement is not only a humanitarian concern, and that sustainable development policies and programmes are needed to tackle the phenomenon. Humanitarian crises threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. It is simply impossible to achieve the SDGs without acting to prevent and reduce displacement, and focusing attention on displaced women and girls as a group not only with specific risks and challenges, but also a vital role to play in shaping and accomplishing lasting solutions.



Women in Mpati village, DRC, in March 2017. Many people in the Mpati area have been displaced from other sites in North Kivu. Photo: Christian Jepsen/NRC

A recent study of women and girls displaced by conflict from Khyber to Peshawar district in Pakistan reveals that the impact of displacement from a rural to a semi-urban area has been hugely positive for many.⁶³ The loss of land on which to pursue their families' traditional agricultural activities has pushed women to look for other sources of income, such as needlework, on which they are able to work independently. Greater access to amenities such as running water, cooking gas and electricity in Peshawar has reduced the amount of time women and girls have to spend on domestic chores. Girls are able to attend school more easily as a result, and also because all-girl schools are available. Moving to a wage economy has also made education a much higher priority for both boys and girls.

Enabling women and girls to not only overcome the challenges associated with displacement, but when possible also to benefit from it requires robust legal and policy frameworks, tailored humanitarian and development support and their involvement in initiatives that concern them.

The UN Security Council resolution 1325 of 2000 stresses the importance of increasing women's participation in the promotion of peace and security in humanitarian settings, but those forced to flee their homes still face significant barriers in exercising their right to participate in decision making that affects their lives.⁶⁴

Fieldwork in Nigeria and South Sudan reveals that the time and energy displaced women and girls spend on securing an income and obtaining food and shelter was the main barrier to their engagement in consultations and applying for leadership positions.⁶⁵ Others included gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects displaced women and can reduce their desire to participate in public life.

Ensuring displaced women and girls are fully accounted for and involved in decision making is essential to guarantee responses that reflect their experiences and are tailored to their needs.

CONCLUSION

This report provides the first estimates of the number of women and girls living in internal displacement at the global, regional and national level for about 50 countries affected by conflict and violence. The global total of around 21 million, or just over half of all IDPs worldwide, highlights the need for specific policies and responses to their displacement.

Left unaddressed, its impacts reinforce each other in a vicious circle of vulnerability. Girls' low school attendance rates may constrain their mothers' ability to engage in work because they have to stay at home to care for them. Mothers' lack of opportunity to establish a decent livelihood will in turn make them less able to afford to send their children to school.

Such findings can be discouraging, but investing in displaced women's and girls' safety and welfare would also have wider positive repercussions for their families and communities, and contribute to progress towards sustainable development in affected countries.

The findings presented in this report are the basis for the following recommendations for governments and humanitarian and development organisations to develop better policies and programmes for displaced women and girls:

- | Expand the collection of data on IDPs disaggregated by sex and age, and invest in gender-focused analyses;
- | Conduct assessments of displacement risk including a gender perspective;
- | Encourage collectors, analysts and users of data to collaborate more closely to ensure it is made more interoperable;
- | Encourage the systematic use of gender analyses based on data disaggregated by sex in humanitarian response plans;

- | Address the negative consequences of displacement for women and girls, but also identify and reinforce the opportunities it presents;

- | Consider not only the short-term but also the medium and longer-term impacts of displacement on women and girls through humanitarian and development plans;

- | Encourage the meaningful participation of displaced women and girls in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes intended to support and protect them;

- | Raise global awareness of the scale and severity of women's and girls' displacement associated with conflict, violence, disasters and climate change, with the aim of increasing political commitment and financial investment in reducing the phenomenon;

- | Review progress against commitments made in the Beijing Declaration, the 2030 Agenda and other normative frameworks intended to prevent and address internal displacement's consequences on women and girls.

ANNEX

TABLE 2: Estimates of the number of women and girls living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence at the end of 2018, by country and age group, using national age distribution data

Country	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-59	60+	All women and girls
Afghanistan	187,000	350,000	276,000	393,000	56,000	1,264,000
Azerbaijan	15,000	27,000	25,000	103,000	24,000	196,000
Bangladesh	18,000	38,000	39,000	98,000	16,000	210,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,000	5,000	5,000	24,000	13,000	50,000
Burkina Faso	3,000	6,000	4,000	7,000	1,000	23,000
Burundi	4,000	6,000	4,000	7,000	1,000	24,000
Cameroon	51,000	88,000	65,000	112,000	15,000	334,000
Central African Republic	49,000	91,000	70,000	96,000	16,000	323,000
Chad	8,000	12,000	9,000	12,000	1,000	45,000
Colombia	208,000	428,000	489,000	1,400,000	405,000	2,932,000
Congo	7,000	14,000	10,000	18,000	2,000	53,000
Côte d'Ivoire	23,000	39,000	31,000	49,000	6,000	149,000
Cyprus	6,000	12,000	15,000	56,000	23,000	114,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	272,000	430,000	293,000	470,000	77,000	1,543,000
Egypt	6,000	9,000	7,000	19,000	4,000	47,000
Ethiopia	155,000	269,000	228,000	352,000	60,000	1,067,000
Georgia	9,000	18,000	15,000	71,000	37,000	153,000
Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Guatemala	13,000	26,000	25,000	48,000	9,000	122,000
Honduras	9,000	19,000	19,000	39,000	7,000	95,000
India	19,000	41,000	40,000	104,000	24,000	230,000
Indonesia	-	1,000	1,000	3,000	-	7,000
Iraq	130,000	232,000	190,000	361,000	54,000	968,000

Country	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-59	60+	All women and girls
Kenya	10,000	20,000	16,000	29,000	3,000	81,000
Lebanon	-	-	-	2,000	-	5,000
Libya	10,000	20,000	17,000	53,000	7,000	109,000
Mali	10,000	17,000	11,000	17,000	2,000	59,000
Mexico	14,000	28,000	29,000	80,000	20,000	172,000
Mozambique	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	-	7,000
Myanmar	16,000	35,000	36,000	96,000	22,000	207,000
Niger	15,000	22,000	14,000	21,000	3,000	77,000
Nigeria	179,000	293,000	209,000	357,000	52,000	1,093,000
Pakistan	7,000	12,000	11,000	22,000	3,000	57,000
Palestine	16,000	28,000	23,000	42,000	6,000	117,000
Papua New Guinea	-	1,000	1,000	2,000	-	5,000
Peru	2,000	4,000	4,000	13,000	3,000	29,000
Philippines	14,000	30,000	27,000	63,000	14,000	149,000
Senegal	1,000	2,000	1,000	3,000	-	9,000
Somalia	233,000	376,000	277,000	378,000	61,000	1,327,000
South Sudan	141,000	242,000	187,000	310,000	51,000	933,000
Sri Lanka	1,000	2,000	2,000	8,000	3,000	19,000
Sudan	148,000	261,000	208,000	356,000	61,000	1,036,000
Syria	320,000	610,000	552,000	1,329,000	238,000	3,052,000
Thailand	1,000	2,000	2,000	10,000	4,000	21,000
Turkey	42,000	87,000	87,000	259,000	79,000	555,000
Uganda	2,000	4,000	3,000	4,000	-	16,000
Ukraine	19,000	42,000	37,000	210,000	120,000	429,000
Yemen	159,000	286,000	237,000	411,000	57,000	1,153,000

* Some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures because they have been rounded

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