



WOMEN'S
REFUGEE
COMMISSION

Inclusive Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Adolescent Health in Development and Humanitarian Contexts –

Achievements, Challenges, Lessons

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Sandra K. Krause, BSN, RN

Acknowledgements: Jennifer Rosenberg, JD/MA



Statistics Humanitarian Context

67.7 million Persons of Concern to UNHCR

- 17.1 million refugees – **nearly 60% in urban areas**
- 36.6 million internally displaced persons
- 2.8 million asylum seekers
- 7.0 million - returnees
- 3.2 stateless persons
- 803,134 others



Inclusion/Exclusion

- **In every society** - individuals are accorded differential status and power, leading to the exclusion and marginalization of certain groups
- Inclusion/exclusion continuum (dynamic, multidimensional) resulting from unequal power relationships at individual, household and community levels.
- **Why is this important? Access to resources, capacities and rights.**
- **Humanitarian contexts** – certain groups more at risk of protection concerns than others (unaccompanied children; adolescents; persons with disabilities; LGBTIQA; commercial sex workers)
- **Intersectionality** - Factors such as sex, age, gender identity, disability; race/ethnicity, religion, bodily diversity, sexual orientation, family structure; marital status
- Best to understand who is in power – **who is excluded and marginalized** and what are the barriers that they face to access their rights/services and assistance – and what are their existing capacities to build on



Refugees Engaged in Sex Work

Background: *Mean Streets: Identifying and responding to Urban Refugees' Risks of Gender-Based Violence*

- Research in four urban refugee settings (Beirut, Lebanon; Delhi, India; Kampala, Uganda; and, Quito, Ecuador)
- GBV risks of different urban refugee subpopulations (women, adolescents, LGBTI, persons with disabilities, men and boys)
- “Refugees engaged in sex work were added as a subpopulation due to their **invisibility**, the **heightened GBV they face**, and **how frequently sex work was cited as a risk factor across cities and subpopulations.**” Jennifer Rosenberg



Sex Worker

Sex worker – female, male, and transgender adults and young people (over 18 years of age) who receive money or goods in exchange for sexual services, either regularly or occasionally. Sex work may vary in the degree to which it is ‘formal’ or ‘organized.’

- **NOTES:** It is important to **differentiate coercive sex** – threats, violence or abuse of authority, trafficking etc. And, **some people will identify as sex workers others who engage in sex work do not.**

Select Guidance for Working with Refugee Sex Workers

- Respect rights and dignity-support refugees to know and claim them
- Support immediate protection and health needs
- Solicit inputs and perspectives of sex workers themselves
- Seek local/regional expertise of sex worker organizations and experienced service providers
- Know local laws and enforcement

Select Guidance for Working with Refugee Sex Workers

- Conduct targeted outreach and multi-sectoral tailored projects
- Facilitate peer-led approaches, individual and community empowerment – **leverage existing capacities and social capital**
- Facilitate access to information, services and support
- **Build staff skills and capacities:** rights, non-discrimination, confidentiality; destigmatize
- Ensure 'inclusive programing' in funding proposals



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Thank You!

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