

Demography of displaced populations: Gender implications

International Forum on Migration Statistics
24 January 2023

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Presentation Outline

1. Reminder: key definitions
2. Demographic dimensions of displaced populations
3. Ukraine case study
4. Gender dimensions & comparisons
5. Conclusions

Key definitions

Demography

The scientific study of human populations primarily with respect to their size, their structure and their development; it takes into account the quantitative aspects of their general characteristics.

-- [Demopaedia](#)

Displacement

The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters.

Cross-border displacement

The movements of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence and move across international borders.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

-- [Glossary on Migration, IOM](#)

Why is it important?

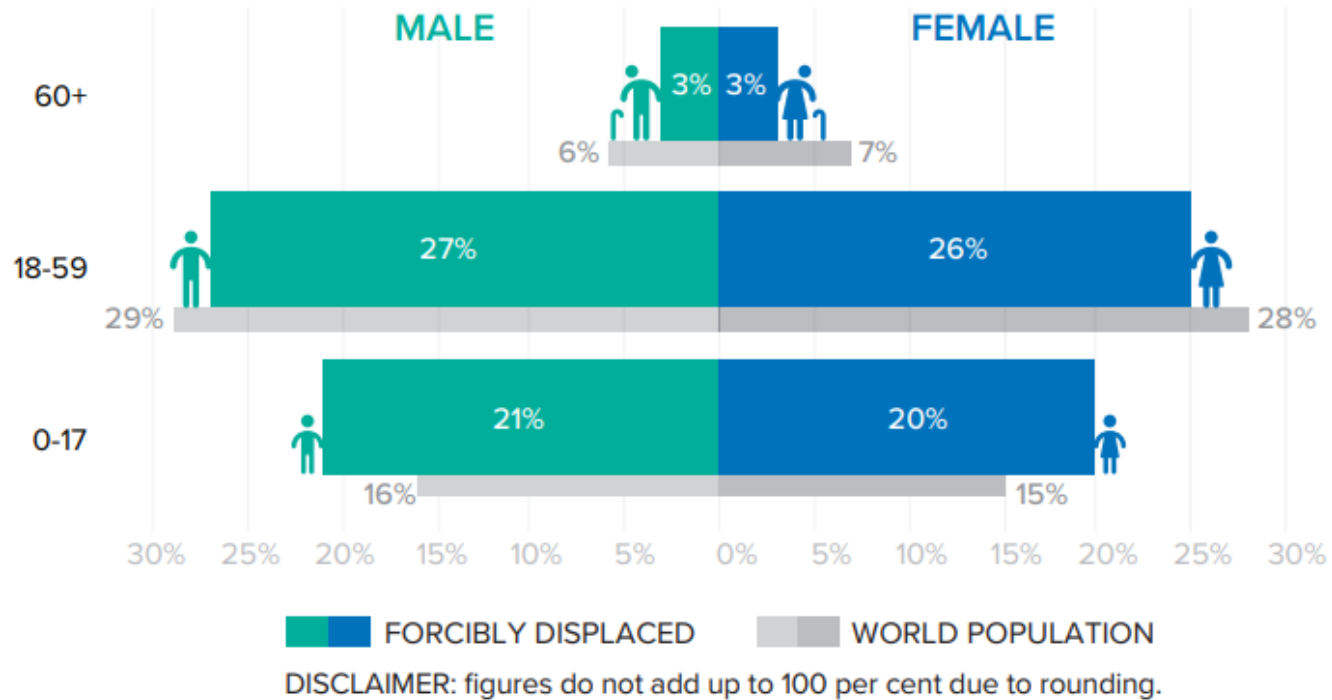
Need to understand displacement (and migration) in terms of:

- Demography
- Geographic patterns
- Volume & trends
- Human rights & protection
- Risks of future/secondary displacement

...the **impacts on populations** can shed important light on which **groups of people may be at heightened risk of extreme vulnerability**

- Females (women & girls), children/youth, UAMs/orphans, disabled, third country nationals
- Access to support services (shelter, health, food/water, education, etc)
- Protection status
- Preventing SGBV, risks of trafficking/abuse
- Involuntary immobility

Global demographic dimensions of displaced populations



Source: UNHCR, 2022

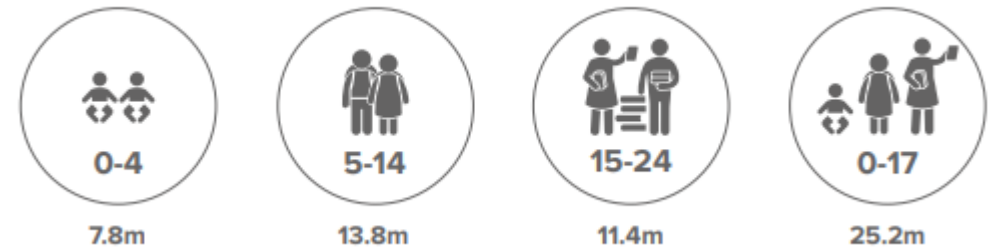
- 48 per cent of people displaced across borders globally are estimated to be **women and girls**. This figure is higher in some regions
 - Women and girls comprise 54 per cent of refugee populations in West and Central Africa
- **Children** account for 42 per cent of all forcibly displaced people worldwide
 - Children make up 55 per cent of refugees in sub-Saharan Africa, 38 per cent in Europe and 26 per cent in the Americas

Demographic dimensions of displaced populations

Children and Youth (IDPs)

- At end of 2021, there were 33 million internally displaced people **under the age of 25** as a result of conflict, violence and disasters in 104 countries and territories
 - Of these, 25.2 million of the world's IDPs were under the age of 18
 - 11.4 million were young people between 15 and 24 years old
- Many are displaced for years and some spend entire childhoods in displacement
- Their experiences vary depending on their gender, age and other characteristics
- The impacts on children and youth are significant:
 - Disrupted education
 - Loss of income and livelihoods
 - Poor physical and mental health, often due to food insecurity and malnutrition

Global number of children and youth living in internal displacement by age group



Source: IDMC, 2022

Ukrainian displaced populations: 2014 to 2022

Internal displacement due to conflict, Ukraine, 2014 to 2021

Internal Displacements ⓘ (2014 - 2021)



Total Number of IDPs ⓘ (As of end of 2021)



Source: IDMC, 2022

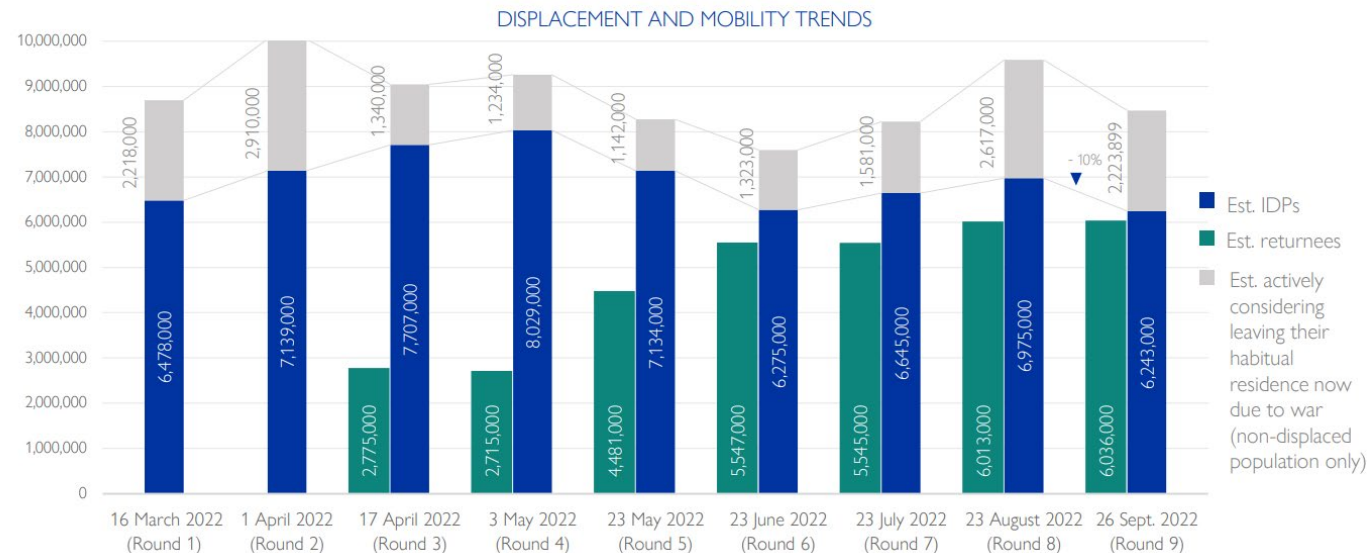
- **854,000** IDPs at end of 2021
- **1.7 million** new displacements between 2014 and 2021

Ukrainian displaced population: 2022

- **7.8 million** refugees from Ukraine across Europe (8 Nov 2022)
- **4.6 million** refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe (8 Nov 2022)
- **6.2 million** estimated number of IDPs (Sept 2022)

Country	Total refugees (08/Nov)
Russian Federation	2,852,395
Poland	1,489,155
Germany	1,019,789
Czechia	458,679
Italy	171,546

Source: UNHCR, 2022 (November)

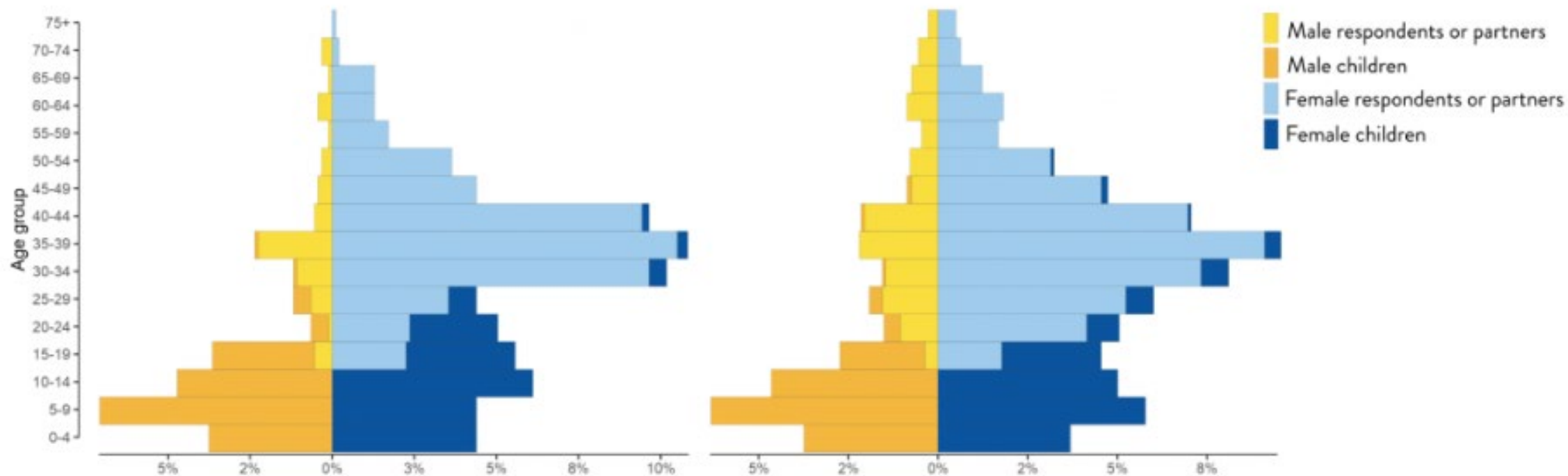


Source: IOM, 2022 (September)

Ukrainian refugee population profiles: Poland and Austria (September 2022)

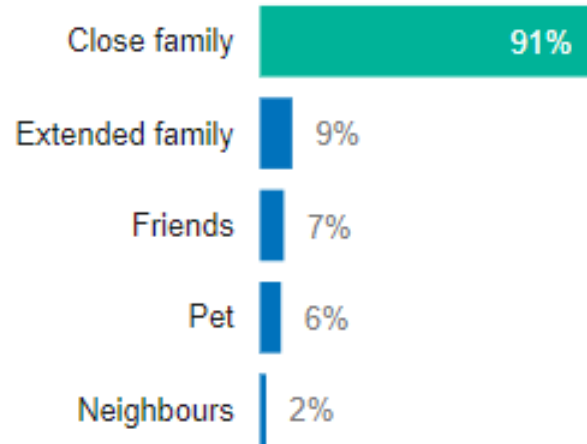
i. Poland (Kraków)

ii. Austria (Vienna)

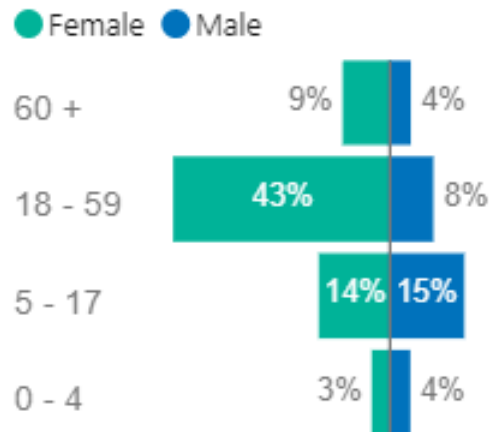


Source: [Kohlenberger et al, 2022](#) (September)

Among those who travelled accompanied, 91% were displaced with their immediate family.



Immediate family age group and gender



Regional Protection Profiling & Monitoring

Profiles, needs, and intentions of refugees from Ukraine (Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia)

Interviews conducted between May and September 2022

The majority of respondents (**78%**) are separated from some of their immediate family members, the primary reason being the restriction of freedom of movement for men due to martial law. Women and children represent **88%** of all family members that left Ukraine together and **13%** of family members are older persons. Among those who travelled accompanied, **5%** travelled with unrelated children.

Source: [UNHCR, 2022](#) (October)

Demography of displacement

IDP Demographics

Percentage of Total IDPs	Total	Male	Female
Infants (U1)*	1.4%	0.6%	0.7%
Children U5 (excl. U1)*	6.1%	2.8%	3.3%
Children 5-17	18.9%	8.7%	10.1%
Adults 18-59	54.1%	22.7%	31.4%
Elderly (60+)	19.5%	8.2%	11.3%
Total	100%	43%	57%

Estimated group size	Total	Male	Female
Infants (U1)*	87,000	40,000	47,000
Children U5 (excl. U1)*	382,000	177,000	205,000
Children 5-17	1,179,000	546,000	633,000
Adults 18-59	3,383,000	1,418,000	1,965,000
Elderly (60+)	1,220,000	511,000	709,000
Total		2,435,000	3,808,000

*The gender shares for children under 17 years old are estimated by applying the 2020 male to female birth ratio as reported by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. All other data is based on the General Population survey.

Source: IOM, 2022 (September)

SHARE OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS WITH VULNERABLE MEMBERS:

Share of IDPs who report one or more of their current household members fall within one of the following vulnerability categories (read as follows: "38% of IDP respondents indicate that at least one member of the family currently with them is a child between ages of 5 and 17"):



Note: The description of the characteristics of IDP household members is based solely on the data for those who do not live at their place of habitual residence due to the war.

Source: IOM, 2022 (September)

Role of gender in demographic processes of forced migration & effect of crisis on gender and gender relations

Effects of gender and gender relations:

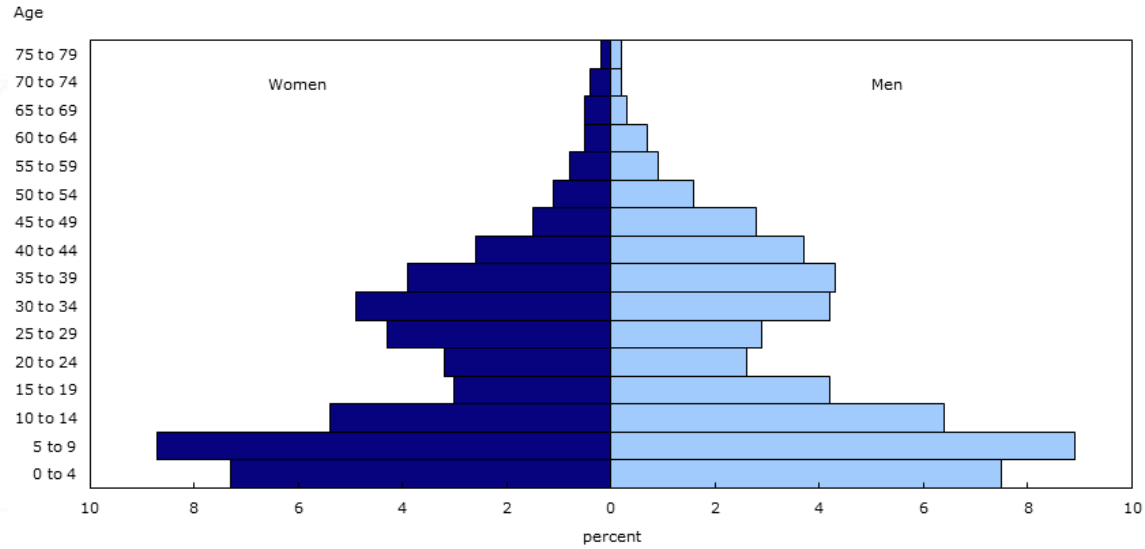
- i) Risk of mortality & injury varies by sex
- ii) SGBV can relate to survival & health status
- iii) Selectivity by sex varies over time, reflecting pre-existing gender roles and socioeconomic responsibilities
- iv) Health and nutritional status varies by sex

Implications of gender and gender relations:

- i) Females at greater risk of SGBV during flight and displacement
 - ii) Access to food & water varies by sex as well as age and gender roles
 - iii) Access to health care varies by sex as well as age and gender roles
 - iv) Changes to household social and economic responsibilities and roles
- [*added*] Access to education varies

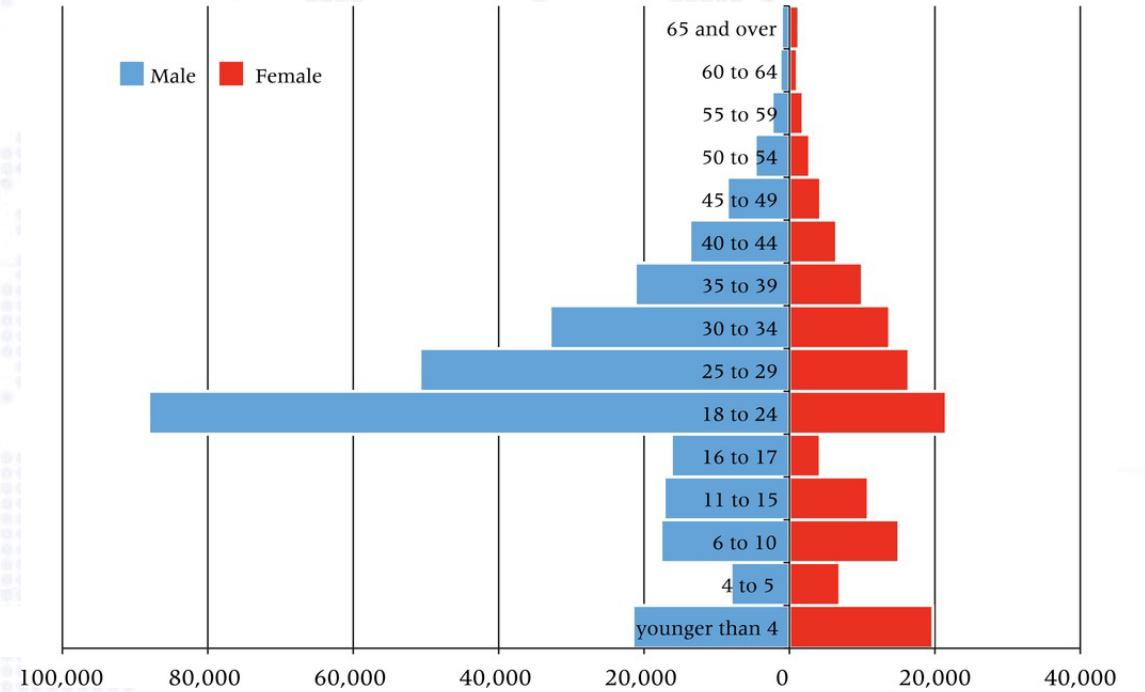
Source: Kraly, 2018 (IUSSP volume on demography of refugee and forced migration)

Gender dimensions: Syrians, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

Syrian refugees resettled to Canada (2015-16), by age and sex

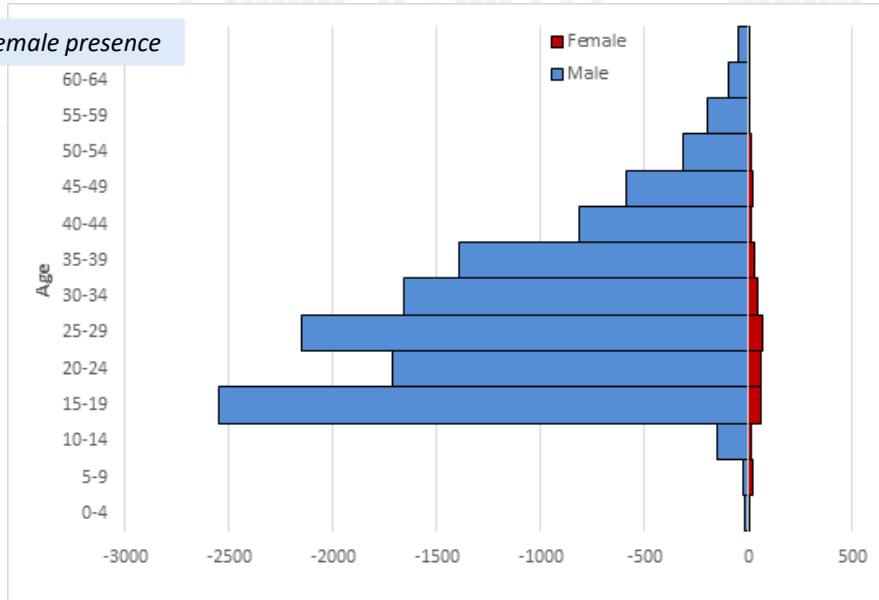


Population demographics of asylum seekers in Germany (2015)

Source: Juran & Boer, 2017.

Gender dimensions: Afghans, 2008-2015

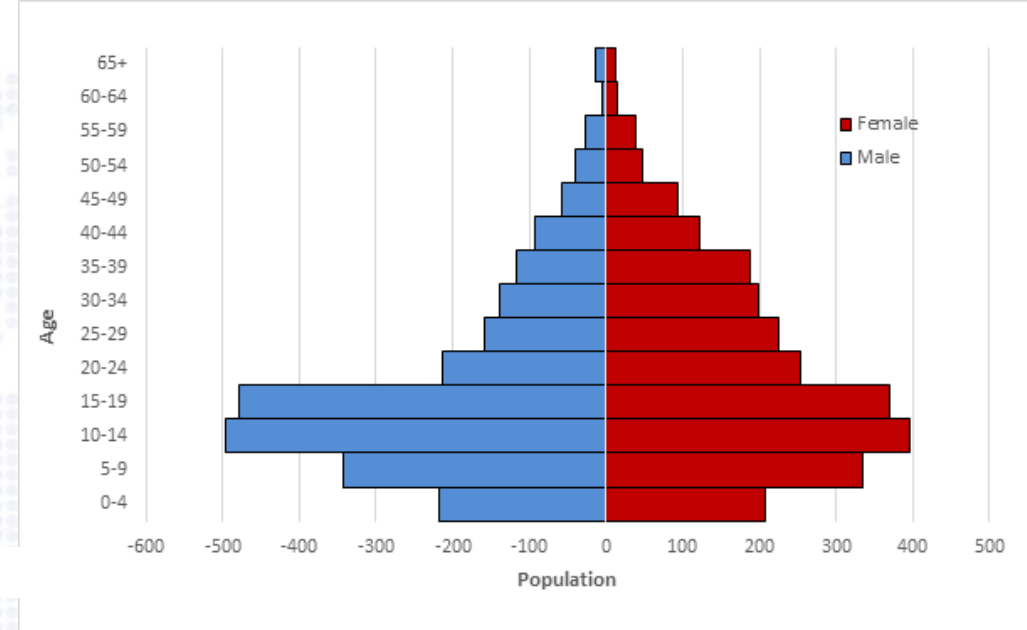
Extremely low female presence



Afghan Hazara maritime asylum seeker population (2008-2013), by age group and sex (n=12,102)

Unaccompanied children (males) consistent with other Afghan asylum seeker populations, especially to Europe

See Vervliet et al. , 2015; Buil & Siegel, 2014; Melni, 2020; Donini, Monsutti & Scalettari, 2016; Omland & Andenas, 2018.



Afghan resettled refugees to Australia (2015), by age group and sex (n=4,901)

Source: McAuliffe, 2017

Conclusions

- The impacts and experiences of displacement vary by age, gender and other characteristics.
- A range of risks during displacement put some groups, including women and girls, in more vulnerable situations.
- Groups such as children and youth are also fundamentally vulnerable during times of conflict or disaster-driven displacement.
- Highly important to understand the different risks and challenges across age groups and genders in order to devise successful and effective responses to displacement (e.g. health/nutrition, education, social, housing, etc support and services).
- Successful humanitarian operations/responses during displacement need to be tailored to address demographic variations.

Thank you!