Demography of displaced populations: Gender implications

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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
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.

Source: UNHCR, 2022
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

Source: IDMC, 2022
Ukrainian displaced populations: 2014 to 2022

Internal displacement due to conflict, Ukraine, 2014 to 2021

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

Source: IDMC, 2022
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total refugees (08/Nov)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>2,852,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1,489,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,019,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechia</td>
<td>458,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>171,546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNHCR, 2022 (November)
Ukrainian refugee population profiles: Poland and Austria (September 2022)

Source: Kohlenberger et al, 2022 (September)
Among those who travelled accompanied, 91% were displaced with their immediate family.

- Close family: 91%
- Extended family: 9%
- Friends: 7%
- Pet: 6%
- Neighbours: 2%

**Immediate family age group and gender**

- Female: 60+
  - 9%
- Male: 60+
  - 4%
- Female: 18 - 59
  - 43%
- Male: 18 - 59
  - 8%
- Female: 5 - 17
  - 14%
- Male: 5 - 17
  - 15%
- Female: 0 - 4
  - 3%
- Male: 0 - 4
  - 4%

**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

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

### Estimated group size

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

**SHARE OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS WITH VULNERABLE MEMBERS:**

- **6%** Pregnant or breastfeeding
- **23%** People with disabilities
- **9%** IDPs from 2014-2021 (with or without formal status)
- **39%** Older persons (>60)
- **30%** Chronically ill
- **40%** Directly affected (harmed) by current violence
- **4%** Infants (<1y.o.)
- **17%** Children aged 1-5

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

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

Population demographics of asylum seekers in Germany (2015)

Gender dimensions: Afghans, 2008-2015

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

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

Extremely low female presence

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

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!