

World Refugee Day

Transactional Sex and Health Repercussions in Forced Displacement: A Multi-Country Study

Launch of the Multi-Country Report

AGENDA

Date: 20 June 2024

Time: 15:00 - 16:30 CET








Venue: Maison de la Paix, Chem. Eugène-Rigot 2, Genève; Auditoriums A2 on the basement level






Online link: <https://iheid.webex.com/iheid/j.php?MTID=m87ccf661a182770347d2f5d6ee2a25fd>

Passcode: fjkDppkP869

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| 15:00 | Welcome & Introductions
Liminality Research Team
Shirin Heidari, <i>Principal Investigator, Liminality Research Consortium, Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute</i>
Monica Onyango, <i>Co-Investigator Liminality Research Consortium, Boston University</i> |
| 15:05 | Transactional Sex and Health Repercussions in Forced Displacement: A Multi-Country Study: presentation of the findings
Shirin Heidari, <i>Principal Investigator, Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute</i>
Ryan Whitacre, <i>Researcher, Liminality Research Consortium, Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute</i> |
| 15:25 | Country Perspectives
Moderated by Monica Onyango (online)
Thanasis Tyrovolas, <i>Researcher, KMOP, Greece (online)</i>
Jinan Usta, <i>Professor, American University of Beirut, Lebanon (online)</i>
Hala Abutaleb, <i>Senior Researcher, Information and Research Center – King Hussein Foundation, Jordan (online)</i>
Thea Hilhorst, <i>Professor of humanitarian studies, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam (online)</i> |
| 15:45 | Research Q&A |
| 15:55 | Stakeholder Dialogue
Artemis Akbary, <i>Founder and Executive Director, Afghan LGBT Organization (moderator)</i>
Suma Abdelsamie, <i>Interim Executive Director, Transgender Europe (online)</i>
Kemal Ordek, <i>Programme Analyst, Protection, UNFPA Türkiye (online)</i>
Catrin Schulte-Hillen, <i>Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies specialist, UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division</i>
Kathryn McCallister, <i>GBV Officer, UNHCR</i> |
| 16:25 | Closing |
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BIOGRAPHIES

	<p>Shirin Heidari is a Senior Researcher at the Gender Centre of Geneva Graduate Institute and the Principal Investigator of the Liminality Research Consortium. She is also the Founder and Executive Director of GENDRO, a Geneva-based association dedicated to advancing gender-sensitive research. Previously, she held leadership roles at Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters and the International AIDS Society and served as Editor for their Journals. She received her doctorate at Karolinska Institute in 2001 and continued as a researcher until her move to Geneva in 2007. During her professional career, she has served as a board member of several organisations, including European Association of Science Editors, where led the development of the widely cited SAGER guidelines. As an elected board member at Amnesty International, Sweden, she was advocate for sexual and reproductive rights and the right to health. Currently, she is the Vice President of the Foundation Board of the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum for Human Rights (FIFDH). She has been a TEDx speaker and author of several publications.</p>
	<p>Monica Onyango is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Global Health at Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) and the director of the Global Health Context Certificate. She is also a visiting Professor at the University of Nairobi. With over 30 years in healthcare delivery, management, teaching, and research, Dr. Onyango teaches courses on disaster management, sexual and reproductive health, global perinatal health, and refugee health. Her research focuses on sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and the health of forcibly displaced populations. She has led projects in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Kenya, and explored mental health among African immigrants in the U.S. Before joining BUSPH, she worked with the Kenya Ministry of Health and international NGOs in South Sudan, Angola, and Kenya. Dr. Onyango co-founded the Global Nursing Caucus and Circle of Adolescent Health-Kenya. She holds a PhD in Nursing, MS in Nursing, MPH, and various diplomas in nursing and midwifery.</p>
	<p>Ryan Whitacre is committed to advancing health equity and improving health systems. He earned a PhD in the UCSF-UC Berkeley joint program in medical anthropology (2018) and completed postdoctoral training in anthropology and global health at The Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland (2018-22). His research aims to counter structural processes that reinforce marginalization, with current projects focused on improving health outcomes associated with cannabis policy, forced displacement, and transactional sex, and he is currently part of the Liminality Research Consortium. He is currently a Research Scientist at the Public Health Institute in Berkeley, CA, and a Resident Scholar at the Berkeley Center for Social Medicine.</p>
	<p>Thanasis Tyrovolas holds a Master's degree in Africa and International Development, and a second MSc in Applied Geography and Spatial Planning from Harokopio University. Currently he is a PhD candidate in Sociology in the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, working on a project on migration. He is an experienced Researcher with over 8 years of experience. He has worked in various NGOs in Greece, focusing on migration and gender issues. His research interests lie on the intersection of migration, gender issues, and space. He is the lead researcher responsible for the research in Greece, in the Liminality Research Consortium.</p>
	<p>Jinan Usta is Associate Professor, Family Medicine Dept. American University of Beirut Medical Center, and the president of the World Organization of Family Physicians (WONCA) East Mediterranean region. Jinan Usta specializes in family medicine with a focus on issues such as domestic violence and women's health. She has been actively involved in various research and outreach programs aimed at improving community health and has worked extensively on providing remote healthcare services for domestic violence survivors. Her academic and professional contributions have significantly advanced the field of family medicine in Lebanon and the region. Jinan is member of the Liminality Research Consortium and leading the research in Lebanon.</p>
	<p>Hala Abutaleb is the Research Manager at the Information and Research Center- King Hussein Foundation (IRCKHF) based in Amman, Jordan. She specializes in qualitative research with vulnerable groups with a focus on gender, youth, social and political justice, and cultural movements. She has experience and trains on ethical considerations in research, and participatory research methods. Hala has participated in research activities across Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Uganda. She was the lead researcher on the Liminality Research project in Jordan.</p>
	<p>Dorothea Hillhorst is a professor of humanitarian studies at the International Institute for Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University in The Hague. She defines humanitarian studies as "the study of societies and vulnerable communities experiencing humanitarian crisis originating from disaster, conflict, refugee situations, and/ or political collapse. It studies the causes and impact of crisis; how people, communities and authorities respond to them, including efforts for prevention and preparedness; how humanitarian action and other external interventions are organized and affect the recovery from crises; and the institutional changes that crises and crisis response engender". She has a special interest in the intersections of humanitarianism with development, peacebuilding and gender-relations. She currently implements an ERC advanced grant programme on humanitarian governance. She is also part of a research team studying the prevalence of transactional sex in humanitarian crisis situations. In 2022, she was awarded the Spinoza Price, the highest scientific distinction in the Netherlands.</p>

	<p>Artemis Akbary is a prominent Afghan LGBTQ+ rights activist and the founder and executive director of the Afghan LGBT Organization (ALO). Since the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, he has been pivotal in supporting the evacuation of LGBTQ+ Afghans and providing essential relief aid to those remaining in the country. Akbary actively raises awareness about the severe human rights abuses faced by LGBTQ+ individuals under Taliban rule, including speaking at the UN Security Council to highlight these issues. His advocacy calls for international action to protect LGBTQ+ rights and ensure the safety and dignity of marginalized groups in Afghanistan</p>
	<p>Suma Abdelsamie is a trans refugee activist currently serving as the Interim Executive Director of Transgender Europe (TGEU). She has a rich background in advocacy for LGBTQI+ refugees, including leading the 'Tea & Talk' group in Istanbul and consulting for Emantes in Athens. Abdelsamie has also coordinated RFSL Stockholm's newcomers' program and co-founded several asylum networks, including the TGEU Trans Refugee Network. Her work, driven by personal experiences of persecution, focuses on advancing the rights and integration of trans refugees through policy advocacy and community support.</p>
	<p>Kemal Ördök is a Programme Analyst (Protection) at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Türkiye and Coordinator of the UN GLOBE Türkiye Chapter. They are a dedicated human rights defender and activist, known for their significant contributions to the rights of transgender individuals and sex workers. They have been an expert on key populations, and has worked with/for youth, LGBTQI+ people, sex workers, PLHIV, victims of human trafficking, refugees/migrants since 2007. Kemal Ördök has provided technical expertise to the Key Refugee Groups Project of UNFPA Türkiye since 2017, supporting protection and SRH service provision, capacity-building and advocacy for LGBTQI+ refugees, sex worker refugees and refugees who live with HIV in Türkiye. Kemal Ördök had carried out activism for key populations between 2007 – 2017 as a board member, advisor, professional staff of several national NGOs in Türkiye; and acted as a board member, steering committee member, advisory board member and national consultant for LGBTQI+ and sex worker INGOs such as Transgender Europe, SWAN, ESWA, Youth Coalition for SRH, ILGA-Europe. In addition, Kemal Ördök worked professionally for Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) as a policy officer. They hold a bachelor's in international relations from Bilkent University and Master of Science in Sociology from the Middle East Technical University (METU). An enthusiast of academic work on gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, SOGIESC, sex work, and an expert on key populations. E-mail: ordek@unfpa.org.</p>
	<p>Catrin Schulte-Hillen is a specialist in sexual and reproductive health in emergency settings, currently working at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She has previously held senior roles at both UNHCR and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), where she coordinated efforts on reproductive health and care for survivors of sexual violence. Schulte-Hillen holds a Master's degree in Public Health, a license in applied epidemiology and statistics, and a diploma in business administration. Her career spans over three decades, focusing on improving health outcomes for women and girls in crisis-affected areas through comprehensive healthcare services and policy advocacy</p>
	<p>Kate McCallister is a GBV Officer with UNHCR based in the Division of International Protection in Geneva. In this role she is responsible for overseeing UNHCR's GBV response programming, including capacity strengthening and increasing predictability, accessibility and quality of services for GBV survivors especially in refugee settings. She has over 17 years of experience working on GBV programming with a variety of organisations and agencies in humanitarian contexts in 14 countries, including Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Somalia.</p>