Evaluating Government Responses to Gender-Based Violence against Refugee and IDP Women and Girls

A Multiple Case Study of Camp Conditions in Developed and Developing Countries

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Argument
Shifting the Narrative

Not about lack of resources alone
Incidence of GBV in refugee and IDP camps linked to how governments understand the nature of GBV and address it in legal structure

Need to put different legal frameworks in conversation
- Combines DRR best practices, int'l human rights law, humanitarian standards
- Bridges the gap between rights of refugees and IDPs
- Explores effect of gender-sensitive vs. gender-neutral laws

Goal of work
What is similar and different across different countries? Why?
Country cases
Context and legal obligations

Refugee/asylum-seeker cases
France
Germany
Sweden
Australia

International treaties ratified by all
Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)
CEDAW (1979)
Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)

IDP cases
Philippines
Haiti

Universally accepted by UNGA
1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
Methodology
Methodology

Iterative approach through legal framework of each country
Review of international conventions and national laws

Government response to GBV explored via camp administration
Proxy for how protections and recourse to justice for survivors implemented

Experience of women and girls on the ground
- What risk factors created environment for GBV (sexual assault and DV)?
- Root causes of these factors?
Findings
Findings

Broad similarities in observed risk factors for GBV in camps

The Philippines had the most preventative and recourse-focused legal system in spite of weaknesses in resource allocation and local implementation
  - Mechanisms to hold authority figures to account & improve resources
  - Gender-sensitive procedures in camp administration
  - Detailed gender-specific laws (participation, protection, recourse)

In the other countries studied:
  - Negligence by authorities and lack of accountability for their negligence
  - Exclusion of female beneficiaries from policies that affect them
Conclusions
Policy implications

Rethinking whole legal framework to protect people experiencing forced displacement generally, but especially in context of GBV
Thank you
List of references


