

TURKEY

Formative research to inform the development of an intervention to prevent intimate partner violence among Syrian refugees in Izmir, Turkey

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BACKGROUND

The conflict in Syria has resulted in mass displacement and Syrian refugees are at risk of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV is prevalent in refugee crises, but there are fewer data on the contextual factors

underlying IPV in humanitarian contexts compared to non-humanitarian settings and fewer data on effective IPV prevention interventions for acute refugee crises.

PROJECT AIMS

The project aims to:

1. Identify social, gender, and cultural norms underlying IPV among Syrian refugees in Izmir, Turkey to inform a future IPV intervention and;
2. To explore the feasibility and acceptability of various platforms for delivery of the intervention.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen community and research partnerships in Izmir, Turkey
2. Conduct formative research to understand underlying causal factors for IPV among Syrian refugees in Izmir, Turkey
3. Develop a logic model for IPV prevention among Syrian refugees
4. Conduct qualitative research to assess the feasibility and acceptability of potential intervention platforms and delivery
5. Dissemination of formative research and planning for intervention development

PROJECT METHODS

This cross-sectional qualitative study will be conducted in a community centre in Izmir, Turkey, serving a community with an estimated 150,000 Syrian refugees. A convenience sample of female and male Syrian refugees (aged 15 and older) accessing services at the community centre will be invited to participate in semi-structured interviews or focus group discussions. After obtaining verbal informed consent, trained Syrian social workers will conduct the interviews and focus group discussions in Arabic using interview guides developed in collaboration with local partners. The 30 semi-structured interviews and 8 focus group discussions will be audio recorded and transcribed and translated to

English. Even though facility-based assessments may be limited by selection bias and may only represent those who seek services, we believe that this approach minimises risks to the refugee population and also allows for provision of psychosocial support for participants as needed.

Transcripts will be coded for content analysis using a qualitative software program. The analysis will focus on contextual factors related to the Syrian culture, factors related to the Syrian conflict and potential trauma, and factors related to displacement and refugee status in Turkey as potential drivers of IPV.

PROJECT INNOVATION AND IMPACT

The proposed project will contribute to evidence on IPV among refugee populations in low- and middle-income countries and will inform programming and policy related to the Syrian refugee crisis. It is focused in its approach, brings a multi-disciplinary perspective, and has strong community engagement and support. The project outcomes will have important relevance to programming, research, and policy related to IPV in humanitarian settings and will also provide data and tools that can be used to inform interventions that aim to prevent IPV among refugees in low- and middle-income countries.

