
7-2023

Data Brief—Girls in Humanitarian Settings

GIRL Center

Follow this and additional works at: https://knowledgecommons.popcouncil.org/focus_adolescents

How does access to this work benefit you? Click here to let us know!

Recommended Citation

GIRL Center. 2023. "Girls in Humanitarian Settings," Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls Data Brief. New York: Population Council.

This Brief is brought to you for free and open access by the Population Council.



Girls Deliver

PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS
KIGALI, RWANDA • 16 JULY 2023

ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Girls are affected by Humanitarian Crises



In 2021, over **89** million adolescent girls were living in conflict zones¹

About 40% of humanitarian workers responding to crisis are women.⁷

"UNHCR reports that one in five refugee or internally displaced women have faced sexual violence."⁸

Girls are almost **2x** more likely to be out of school in conflict-affected countries²

Adolescent girls are disproportionately affected by hunger in humanitarian settings

"There could be as many as **150 million more girls and women globally who are food insecure** compared to boys and men"³



"More than **70%** of people facing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in 2021 were living in conflict-affected countries³

"UN Women's Gender Equality Attitudes Study 2022 found that overall, 25% of respondents agree that 'in times of food shortages, priority should be given to men'."⁴

Gender-based violence (GBV) increases in times of crisis

"In 2021, the risk of gender-based violence was rated as **severe** or **extreme** in 95% of humanitarian crises."¹

"In West Africa, food scarcity and hunger have driven up the number of early and forced marriages."³



In drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, child marriage increased **51%** in a year³

"Across the East Central African region, child marriage has reportedly risen in some communities, with families' marrying off young girls to lessen demands on their own resources and to have money that they can use for food and other necessities."⁴

↑ cost of food and other household essentials; ↑ women's vulnerability to violence⁴

In a study from Bangladesh, "Women reported a **21% increase in violence at household level** as a result of price hikes."

In conflict/humanitarian settings, Hunger and GBV are interconnected and have a ripple effect on other sectors including education



"School feeding programmes have been found to increase school enrolment by an average of **9%**"⁵

"The pressure put on families when water and food become scarce can bear down on underlying pre-existing gender discrimination. These and poverty pull girls out of school. [...] Girls are at risk from violence both inside and outside the home and must struggle harder to avoid child marriage and early pregnancy."

(Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from the Sahel)⁶

"The constraints which affect food access for women and girls—including unequal control over resources, less autonomy in household decisions and discriminatory norms which restrict their freedoms—also contribute to women and girls' vulnerability to GBV. This means the women and girls who are most at risk of going hungry are also more likely to experience violence."⁴

REFERENCES

1. https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Global-Girlhood-Report-2022_Executive-Summary-English.pdf/
2. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000233557>
3. Beyond Hunger: The Gendered Impacts of the Global Hunger Crisis (2023)
4. GBV & Food Insecurity | What we know and why gender equality is the answer
5. Plan International and Child Protection AoR, Child Protection and Food Security: An Evidence Review of the Linkages in Humanitarian Settings', 2022,
6. Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from the Sahel (2020) (Report, Technical Report)
7. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/humanitarian-action>
8. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2022/06/statement-by-under-secretary-general-of-the-united-nations-and-executive-director-of-un-women-sima-bahous-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict-and-world-refugee-day>

This data brief was created by the Population Council's GIRL Center in collaboration with Plan International to inform the thematic roundtable discussion on Girls in Humanitarian Settings at the Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls held in Kigali, Rwanda ahead of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference.

Suggested citation:

GIRL Center. 2023. "Girls in Humanitarian Settings," Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls Data Brief. New York: Population Council.