

TRIPLE JEOPARDY: Protecting At-Risk Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SGBV AGAINST REFUGEES WITH DISABILITIES

1. AIM

This module seeks to provide participants with an understanding of how disability, gender and displacement increases vulnerability to SGBV. It helps participants become familiar with the forms and perpetrators of SGBV against refugees with disabilities.

2. USE

This module may be used as part of a half-, one- or two-day training (see *Model Agendas*).

TIME	METHODOLOGY	MATERIALS
1 hour, 30 minutes	PowerPoint Brainstorming Discussion Group work Case study	Flip chart Markers SGBV Against Refugees with Disabilities PowerPoint Projector Case studies handout

3. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Helpful **definitions** for this and other modules include:

- **Forced Displacement:** (For the purpose of this training): People forced to leave or flee their countries due to conflict, violence, persecution or human rights violations. According to UNHCR, 65.3 million people were displaced in 2015.
- **Vulnerability:** A person's diminished ability to mitigate exposure to risk (in this case, the risk of exposure to SGBV) due to internal, environmental or systemic causes and contributing factors.
- **Root Cause:** The fundamental reason for the occurrence of a problem (in this case, SGBV).
- **Contributing Factor:** Something that is partly responsible for a development or phenomenon.

Resources

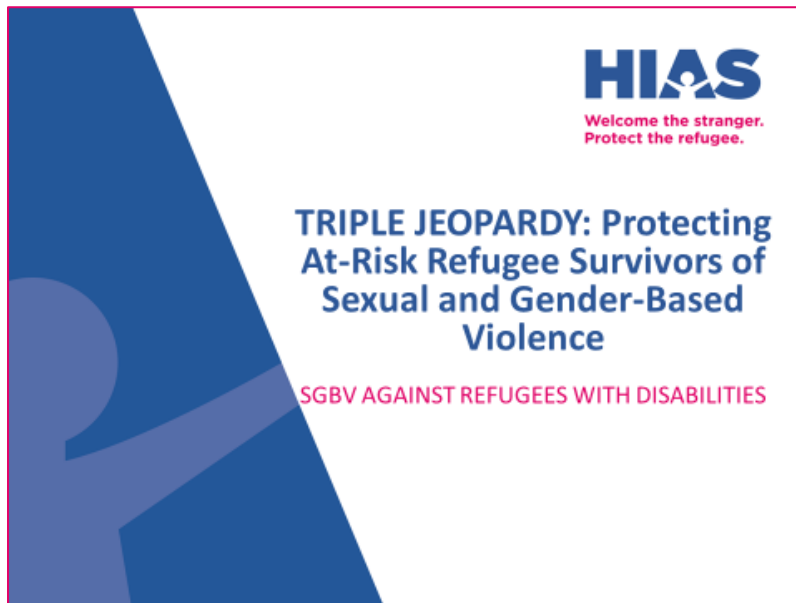
Triple Jeopardy Report, pp. 22-23.

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (2013) [Definition of Intellectual Disability](#). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2016) [Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015](#). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2011) [Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement](#).

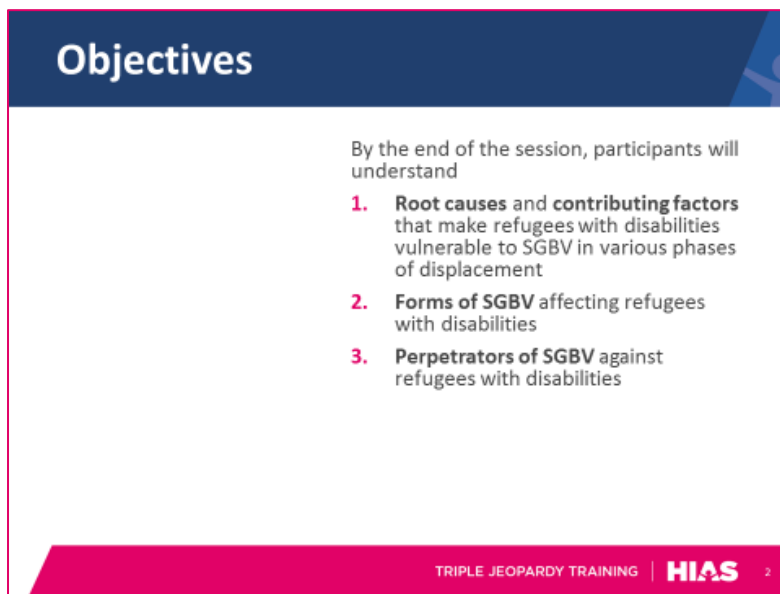
4. SLIDES

This section provides you background and resources for each PowerPoint slide in the module. It also gives you instructions to facilitate group discussions and exercises.

SLIDE 1: COVER



SLIDE 2: OBJECTIVES



Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will understand

1. **Root causes and contributing factors** that make refugees with disabilities vulnerable to SGBV in various phases of displacement
2. **Forms of SGBV** affecting refugees with disabilities
3. **Perpetrators of SGBV** against refugees with disabilities

TRIPLE JEOPARDY TRAINING | HIAS 2

Background

- Through the analysis of case studies based on interviews with refugees with disabilities who are survivors of SGBV, participants will identify the causes and contributing factors making refugees with disabilities vulnerable to SGBV throughout displacement.
- Participants will identify potential perpetrators of SGBV and types of SGBV experienced by refugees with disabilities based on the findings of the *Triple Jeopardy* report.

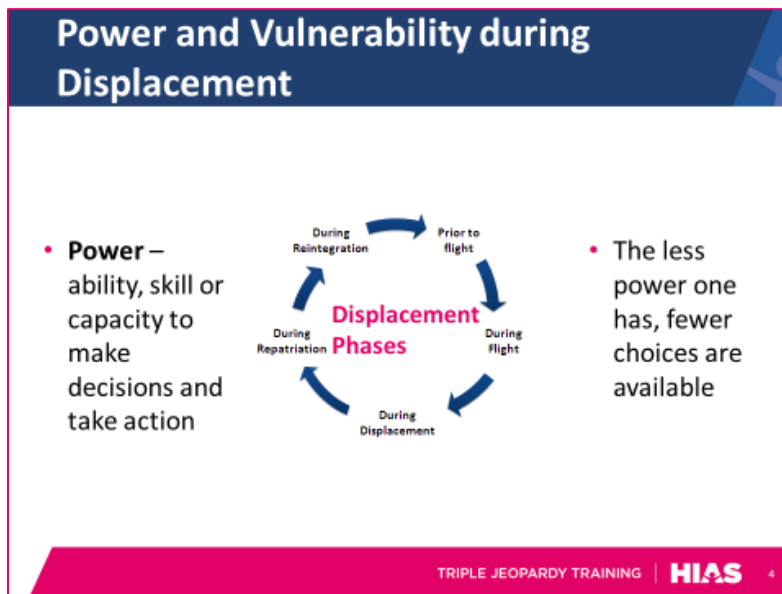
Resources

Triple Jeopardy Report, pp. 22-23.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2016) [Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015](#).

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2011) [Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement](#).

SLIDE 3: POWER AND VULNERABILITY DURING DISPLACEMENT



Background

- People are forced to flee from their home countries for various reasons, including war, political unrest, conflict, human rights violations, lack of access to basic services and other forms of individual or group persecution or fear of persecution.
- The cycle of displacement includes several phases: Prior to Flight – Flight – Displacement – Repatriation/Resettlement – Reintegration. Not all refugees necessarily go through all the phases of displacement.
- Displacement creates more risks and vulnerability due to a breakdown in community and institutional protection mechanisms and/or capacity of people to protect themselves.
- People are more at risk of violations during the first three phases of displacement since there are major protection gaps during displacement and upon arrival.
- Vulnerability to SGBV varies according to a refugee's ability to access information, resources and services, which allow him or her to make informed decisions and have the power to act independently.
- This vulnerability is increased for refugees with disabilities and their caregivers, who are disproportionately affected by the breakdown of family and community support networks, and encounter greater barriers in accessing information, resources and services.

Resources

Singh, Eghdami & Singh (2014) [The Concept of Social Vulnerability: A Review from Disasters Perspectives](#). Women's Refugee Commission (2015) [I See That It Is Possible: Gender-Based Violence Disability Toolkit](#).

SLIDE 4: ROOT CAUSES

Root Causes

SGBV against refugees with disabilities is caused by abuse of the fundamental imbalance of power between

- Nationals and refugees
- Men and women
- People with and without disabilities

TRIPLE JEOPARDY TRAINING | HIAS 4

Background

- **Root Cause:** The fundamental reason for the occurrence of a problem.
- The fundamental root cause of SGBV against refugees with disabilities is abuse of the imbalance of power between those considered able and those who have impairments perceived as disabilities.
- This imbalance of power persists and grows with the consequences of forced migration, limiting the ability of refugees with disabilities to make decisions within their families, relationships and communities.
- This imbalance provides more power to nationals than refugees, to men than women, and to people without disabilities.
- People with disabilities who are displaced due to crisis and conflict experience multiple, intersecting and sometimes mutually reinforcing forms of discrimination and oppression, adding to their risk of SGBV.
- Refugee women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to SGBV, which is caused by structural inequalities relating to gender, disability and displacement, reducing their power in relationships, households and communities.

Resources

Triple Jeopardy Report, pp. 22-23.

Women's Refugee Commission (2015) [I See That It Is Possible: Gender-Based Violence Disability Toolkit](#).

Contributing Factors

Factors that contribute to SGBV against refugees include:

- Instability in the country of origin or asylum
- Ineffective legal systems
- Lack of humanitarian assistance, medical care
- Lack of access to information
- Inability to communicate
- Limited financial resources
- Inability to earn an income, pursue a profession

TRIPLE JEOPARDY TRAINING | HIAS 5

Background

- **Contributing Factor:** Something that is partly responsible for the development of the phenomenon.
- Contributing factors that are partly responsible for the vulnerability of refugees with disabilities to SGBV include external social factors, like political instability, lack of effective law enforcement or legal systems and limited humanitarian assistance or medical care.
- Other contributing factors include refugees' access to information, their ability to communicate in a language common in the country of asylum, their vocational skills or professional training and their access to financial resources.

Resources

Triple Jeopardy Report, pp. 22-23.

Forced Displacement Intensifies Risk of SGBV Against People with Disabilities

- Family members with disabilities may be left alone or with young family caregivers, exposing them to risk
- People with disabilities may be viewed as a burden by forcibly displaced families
 - This can lead to denial of food, other resources, power
- Gender roles are affected when a family member acquires a disability, sometimes leading to SGBV
 - E.g., women can no longer fully care for the family; men can no longer work, undermining breadwinner role

TRIPLE JEOPARDY TRAINING | HIAS 6

Background

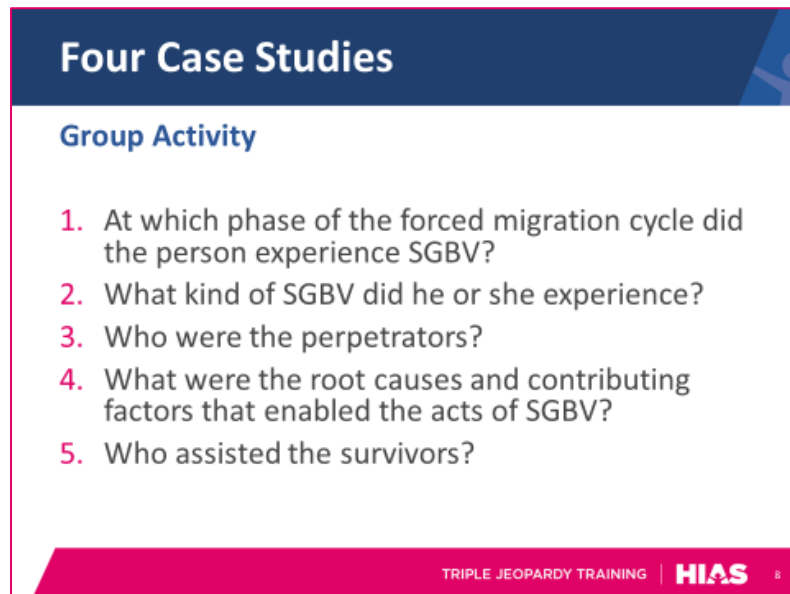
- In addition to these contributing factors, there are a range of other factors that make refugees with disabilities more vulnerable to SGBV.
- There may be a breakdown in family and community support networks. This may result in people with disabilities seeking assistance from people who are less familiar with them, or being left alone while other family members seek work outside the home.
- Lack of social and financial support during flight or in the country of asylum may lead families to perceive a person with a disability is a “burden,” resulting in greater risk of abuse, SGBV, trafficking and abandonment.
- Inadequate shelter disproportionately affects those with disabilities, who become isolated in the home due to environmental barriers. Some people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities may become confused and agitated when there is too much noise and overcrowding, leading families to negative coping strategies, such as physical restraint.
- Changes to transportation – both availability and cost – can add to the vulnerability of people with physical disabilities who will be unable to access services and assistance on an equal basis with others. In camp settings, they may rely on other community members to collect materials and rations, exposing them to greater risk of exploitation.
- Perceptions about the capacity of people with disabilities can also increase their vulnerability to SGBV. Perpetrators may target individuals who they perceive are less likely to defend themselves and/or to access appropriate reporting mechanisms. Likewise, service providers may question the capacity of people with disabilities to learn new information, and therefore exclude them from prevention programs, and even question their reports of abuse, in turn reinforcing a cycle of impunity.
- New disabilities can change the gender roles in households. In traditional communities, men disabled in war who are no longer able to be breadwinners, or women disabled during migration who cannot care for their families, may be viewed as not fulfilling their gender roles. This can lead to tension, violence and SGBV.

Resources

Triple Jeopardy Report, pp. 7-8, 22-23.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2011) [Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement](#). Women's Refugee Commission (2015) [I See That It Is Possible: Gender-Based Violence Disability Toolkit](#).

SLIDE 8: FOUR CASE STUDIES



Four Case Studies

Group Activity

1. At which phase of the forced migration cycle did the person experience SGBV?
2. What kind of SGBV did he or she experience?
3. Who were the perpetrators?
4. What were the root causes and contributing factors that enabled the acts of SGBV?
5. Who assisted the survivors?

TRIPLE JEOPARDY TRAINING | HIAS 8

Materials

Flip chart and markers, case study handout

Background

- These four case studies are taken from interviews with refugees with disabilities conducted during the research phase of the *Triple Jeopardy* report.
- The exercise enables participants to: understand the nature of SGBV specific to refugees with disabilities; identify root causes and contributing factors; recognize types, perpetrators and consequences of SGBV; and understand how to help refugees with disabilities who experience SGBV access support and assistance.

Group Activity (60 minutes)

- Divide participants into four groups and distribute one case study per group.
- Each group member should read the case study (5 minutes).
- Group members should write out answers to the 5 questions indicated on the slide (15 minutes).
- Ask a volunteer from each group to summarize the story of the case, and another to present the group's answers to all the participants, allowing a few minutes for questions (7 minutes per group, total about 30 minutes)

Possible Answers

Case Study 1 – Bol

Phases of migration cycle: In the country of asylum.

SGBV: Psychological violence - Mockery for having to do women's chores and being "half a man;" Economic violence – Bol wants to control financial resources of his wife; potential forced marriage of Bol's underage daughter.

Perpetrators: Bol, male neighbors, Bol's mother-in-law.

Root causes: The abuse of power by others due to Bol's inability to fulfill gender roles. Bol's own frustration at not being able to "act like a man" leads him to also abuse his own power over his wife. Discrimination in livelihood opportunities on the basis of disability.

Contributing factors:

- Perceptions of NGO staff relating to Bol's capacity to engage in livelihoods, and perhaps a lack of reasonable accommodations to address barriers.
- Emotional distress resulting from changing gender roles brought about by displacement.
- Poverty, leading to potential violation of his daughter's rights.

Supporter: Bol's wife, who earns income to support the family.

Comment: At times, survivors of SGBV may also be perpetrators of SGBV and other forms of violence. In this case, the man who feels he has lost his gender-related power wants to reassert it by demanding control by force over his wife and daughter.

Case Study 2 – Khadija

Phases of migration cycle: In country of origin prior to flight (forced marriage), during flight (rape), and during integration in country of resettlement (restriction of movement).

SGBV: Forced marriage; rape; psychological violence, denial of education; restriction of movement.

Perpetrators: Parents, older husband, rebels and brother.

Root causes: Cultural and religious attitudes confer unequal power based on gender.

Contributing factors

- Negative attitudes relating to women with disabilities as "suitable wives" or partners.
- A disability that makes it more difficult for Khadija to escape violent conditions.
- Lawlessness and impunity, which typically accompany conflict and war.
- Lack of protective livelihood systems or income to support herself.
- Isolation, dependency and lack of social support upon arrival in country of resettlement.

Supporters: The two women who helped her during flight from Somalia to cross the border and get to the hospital in Dadaab; UNHCR, which provided resettlement; Khadija's brother, during the initial period of her integration in Germany.

Case Study 3 – Pauline

Phase of migration cycle: In the country of asylum.

SGBV: Rape and sexual exploitation; physical violence, social exclusion and stigmatization on the basis of disability.

Perpetrators: Neighbors. Other refugee women.

Root causes: The combination of social attitudes toward gender and mental impairment, leading to the disempowerment of Pauline, a woman with mental disabilities.

Contributing factors

- Poverty - Pauline has no money or stable source of income, yet she wants to support her aunt.
- War and displacement led to trauma, which in turn is related to Khadija's mental impairment.

Supporters: The aunt who provides day-to-day support; the hospital providing medical care; the NGO that provided livelihood support.

Comment: People with disabilities often experience wide ranging forms of violence relating to both gender and disability. In practice, structural inequalities relating to gender and disability are so pervasive and interconnected in communities that we need to address both in order to have a society free of SGBV.

Case Study 4 – Josephine

Phase of migration cycle: In the country of asylum (Uganda)

SGBV: Psychological violence – Calling Josephine and her sister “prostitutes”. Rape, if Josephine did not give informed consent. Sexual exploitation, as the neighbor used his resources and power for sexual purposes.

Perpetrator: Community members. Neighbor.

Root causes: Abuse of multiple power imbalances based on attitudes toward foreigners, women and people with disabilities.

Contributing factors:

- Josephine did not access education and other programs which might increase her knowledge and awareness of SGBV, and life skills for safe and healthy sexual relationships.
- Lack of social support - household headed by a single mother who needs to provide for the whole family, leaving the daughters in a situation without an adult caregiver.
- Loss of livelihoods and financial resources available in country of origin.
- Access barriers to education due to poverty and lack of documentation.

Supporters: Friend from Congo who offered alternative accommodation, NGO that provided emergency financial assistance.

Comment: This case study fails to mention anything about Josephine’s perception of the incident, how much information she has about relationships and SGBV, or her will and preferences relating to the pregnancy. People with intellectual disabilities have a right to safe and healthy relationships, free from violence and exploitation. To exercise this right, people with disabilities need information in accessible formats, peer networks for informal learning, and opportunities to strengthen their life skills.

Resources

Triple Jeopardy Report, pp. 22-24.

SLIDE 9: SUMMARY

Summary

- SGBV occurs in all phases of forced displacement
- Root causes of SGBV are connected to power imbalances relating to gender, nationality and disability
- Contributing factors include political instability, broken legal systems, barriers to language information, employment
- Perpetrators include caregivers, family, refugee and local communities, state and non-state agents
- Vulnerability of refugees with disabilities to SGBV is intensified by social exclusion, barriers to services, and breakdown of family and community support networks

TRIPLE JEOPARDY TRAINING | **HIAS** 8

Background

- Present the summary points.
- Ask participants for any questions or requests for clarification.