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Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies

in cooperation with

Cresppa
Centre de Recherches
Sociologiques et Politiques
de Paris



M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

**Organized by the M8 Alliance
under the leadership of the Sapienza University of Rome**

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Migration

**18 June 2021
15:00 – 17:0 Central European Time**

Free but compulsory registration at:

<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/migrant-refugee-health.html>

Webinar in cooperation with the Centre de recherches sociologiques et politiques de Paris (CRESPPA-GTM)¹ and Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD)² of the University of KwaZulu-Natal

The M8 Alliance Webinar Series on **Migrant and Refugee Health**, is a **new format** which aims at bringing together experts from across the M8 Alliance to discuss global, develop innovative and collaborative answers and promote science-based policy advice. Each webinar will last 120 minutes and include different speakers from within the M8 Alliance and beyond.

¹ <https://www.cresppa.cnrs.fr/contacts/?lang=fr>

² <https://www.heard.org.za/>

Programme

Welcome Address by *Luciano Saso*, Sapienza University of Rome,
Coordinator M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

Panel Session chaired by *Jane Freedman* -CRESPPA-GTM, Université Paris-8 and ***Tamaryn L Crankshaw*** -HEARD, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Time to go further: On coaxing SRHR in migration research out of its comfort zone by *Chi-Chi Undie* – Population Council, Nairobi (10')

The potential of telemedicine to improve access to safe abortion for migrant women and women in humanitarian settings by *Margit Endler* - Department of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet (10')

Safe abortion care in humanitarian settings: Problems and potential by *Tamara Fetters* – IPAS (10')

Transactional sex in forced migration and sexual and reproductive health repercussions? by *Shirin Heidari* – Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute Geneva (10')

Discussion

Rapporteur

Stephen Matlin, Visiting Professor, Institute of Global Health Innovation,
Imperial College London, UK

Description

This webinar will examine the ways in which gender inequalities intersect with health insecurities to produce negative sexual and reproductive health outcomes for migrants and refugees and will suggest ways in which migrant's SRHR can be better addressed at national and international level.

Women have been shown to face particular challenges during migration because of gendered structures of violence and inequality at all stages of their migratory journey and on arrival in host countries. One area which is particularly problematic is that of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). But despite the importance of this area, it remains under-researched in comparison with other health issues in migration. The research that exists suggests that these women face high maternal mortality, unmet need for modern contraceptives, complications following unsafe abortion, and gender-based violence, as well as sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Their vulnerability to poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes may be heightened by restrictive migration laws and policies, lack of knowledge on rights in the host country, limited employment or income generating opportunities resulting in poverty and economic insecurity, poor housing and accommodation, and restricted access to health and social services. High levels of domestic violence against these women have also been noted. Further, poor mental health as a result of trauma arising from violence either experienced in the context of the conflict precipitating their flight and/or while on their migration journey may also negatively impact their overall SRH.

Transformations in gender norms and relations during migration, and differing gender norms in countries of origin and destination may also pose problems in accessing SRH healthcare. Lastly, the disproportionately negative economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SRH of marginalised populations, including migrants and refugees, has been observed but not systematically explored.

The participants in the webinar will draw on both theoretical and empirical analyses from various regions of the world to address gaps in current knowledge on SRHR in migration, and to provide recommendations for improving migrants and refugees sexual and reproductive health.

Chairs & Speakers



Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 250 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in www.pubmed.com, total impact factor > 800, H-index Google Scholar 47, Scopus 39). He coordinated several research projects and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and

international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by the UNICA network of the universities from the Capitals of Europe (<http://www.unica-network.eu/>) and other university associations. Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and he is currently President of UNICA (2015-2023). Prof. Saso is a Member of the Executive Committee of the the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies (<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance.html>) and scientific coordinator of the Migrant and Refugee Health webinar series <https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>



Tamaryn Crankshaw is Programme Leader in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at the Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD), University of KwaZulu-Natal. Tamaryn has a PhD in Public Health and has research interests which include sexual and reproductive health and rights, prevention of gender-based violence, HIV prevention and gender politics. Her current research focuses on unsafe abortion, adolescents and contraception, young key populations, comprehensive sexuality education and linkages to adolescent-

friendly sexual and reproductive health services. She is currently engaged in related projects in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.



Jane Freedman is Professor at the Université Paris 8 and Co-Director of the Centre de Recherches Sociologiques et Politiques de Paris (CRESPPA). Her research focuses on issues related to gender, gender-based violence, migration and sexual and reproductive health and rights. She has published widely on these topics and recent books include *Gendering the International Asylum and Refugee Debate* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and *A Gendered Approach*

to the Syrian Refugee Crisis (Routledge, 2017). She is currently leading major international research project on sexual and gender-based violence in the context of migration and on issues relating to SRHR in migration. More information about her research and publications is available at <https://www.cresppa.cnrs.fr/gtm/equipe/les-membres-du-gtm/freedman-jane/>

Time to go further: On coaxing SRHR in migration research out of its comfort zone

Chi-Chi Undie – Population Council, Nairobi

This presentation will serve as a 'conversation starter' for further discussions on Migrant and Refugee Health by proffering that research on SRHR in migration is situated in a comfort zone. In addition to describing this zone of comfort, the presentation outlines the plausible reasons for this situation, while highlighting the associated risks. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of potential approaches for attending to this situation.



Chi-Chi Undie is a Senior Associate in the Reproductive Health Program of the Population Council's Kenya Office. For the last decade, she has directed and provided strategic and technical oversight for the Population Council-led *Africa Regional SGBV Network* – a multi-country, multi-partner, SGBV response, research, and research uptake initiative in refugee and non-refugee settings the East, Horn, and Great Lakes Region of Africa. Her SGBV research has centered on developing evidence-based responses for different categories of survivors in the region, and promoting the utilization of these

responses locally, nationally, and regionally. Her efforts in this regard have led to the passage of regional resolutions around the integration of particular SGBV responses into health and police sectors, and to the regional uptake of various interventions into programming within both refugee and non-refugee

contexts. She currently serves as Research Director for a multi-year, FCDO-funded Research Program Consortium referred to as 'Baobab: Filling Gaps in Evidence to Enhance SRHR among Vulnerable Populations in Refugee Settings in the East and Horn of Africa.

The potential of telemedicine to improve access to safe abortion for migrant women and women in humanitarian settings

Margit Endler

Department of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet

Women in fragile settings are often the first to suffer the consequences of jeopardized infrastructure and systems. The COVID19 pandemic has led to a restructuring of health care services at the expense of sexual and reproductive health services but has also highlighted the potential of remotely-provided care. Telemedicine abortion is used by women around the world to circumvent barriers to formal abortion care. This presentation will review the concept of telemedicine for abortion and discuss new research related to the feasibility, effectiveness, safety and acceptability of providing abortion through telemedicine in various contexts. The focus of the presentation will be how these findings could be applied to the provision of telemedicine abortion to migrant women and women in humanitarian settings.



Margit Endler M.D.PhD, is a Swedish obstetrician/gynecologist and researcher in the field of global maternal health. Her research focuses on postpartum hemorrhage as well as advancing safe abortion and contraceptive care. A main interest is researching and implementing abortion through telemedicine in Africa, the aim a large clinical trial that she is currently conducting. She is a senior consultant at the Department of Obstetrics at Söder Hospital in Stockholm, an assistant professor at the Department of Women and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm and an adjunct member of the FIGO Committee on Human Rights, Refugees and Violence Against Women. She has worked as a clinician or researcher in Sweden, Kenya, Haiti, Poland and South Africa.

Safe abortion care in humanitarian settings: Problems and potential ***Tamara Feters*** – IPAS

Tamara will speak about two decades of advocacy resulting in progress and continued barriers to improving safe abortion care for refugees and displaced people. Finally, she will speak about changes to the humanitarian and health landscape that could lead to a groundswell of interest and safe abortion access in these settings.



At Ipas, **Tamara Feters** is currently the senior research lead for research development and implementation efforts in humanitarian settings. Tamara holds A Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of California at Los Angeles. Her professional interests include program and policy evaluation, maximizing research impact, measurement of abortion morbidity and mortality, participatory learning and action research, human-centered design and

sexual and reproductive health for refugees. Ms. Feters has co-authored articles in the *BJOG*, *Studies in Family Planning*, *Conflict and Health*, *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, and *Global Public Health*.

Transactional sex in forced migration and sexual and reproductive health repercussions?

Shirin Heidari

Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute Geneva

Transactional sex in forced displacement continues to be practised by women, men and people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, with important sexual and reproductive health implications. Yet, our understanding of the motivations, causes and consequences of this practice in the context of displacement is scarce. Moreover, there are connotations of terms and contradictions in the way transactional sex is conceptualized and the concept applied in policy and practice. This ambiguity and lack of evidence of the complexities and diversities of individual experiences of transactional sex during forced displacement results in the failure to provide an adequate basis for protecting the rights and the sexual and reproductive health of those involved in these practices.



Shirin Heidari is a Senior Researcher at Global Health Centre, and Research Affiliate of Gender Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. She is the Principal Investigator of a multi-country research project on transactional sex and the sexual and reproductive health repercussions in forced displacement. Previously, she was the Executive Director of Reproductive Health Matters and Editor-in-Chief of its peer-reviewed journal, and before that, she led the Research Promotion department at the International AIDS Society. Shirin received her doctorate in medicine at Karolinska Institute in 2001, where she continued her research in the HIV field until her move to Geneva in 2007.



Stephen Matlin is a Visiting Professor in the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London, Senior Fellow in the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva and Secretary of the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development. Educated at Imperial College London as an organic chemist, Stephen worked in academia for over 20 years, including as Professor of Biological Chemistry at City University London and at Warwick University, researching in areas including medicinal chemistry and collaborating with the WHO

Special Programmes in human reproduction and tropical diseases. This was followed by periods as Director of the Health and Education Division in the Commonwealth Secretariat, as Chief Education Adviser at the UK Department for International Development and as Executive Director of the Global Forum for Health Research in Geneva. He was a co-founder and co-chair of Global Health Europe. In 2015-2020 he was co-principal investigator of a project on the European dimension in the global effort to eradicate polio, based at the Global Health Centre in Geneva and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He has co-authored a number of reports on the health of migrants and refugees, including a major review in [Public Health Reviews](#).

Background

This webinar is part of the **M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health**, organized by the M8 Alliance under the leadership of Prof. Luciano Saso.



The **M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies** is an unique international network of 30 leading international academic health centers, universities and research institutions, all of which are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide.

Migrant and Refugee Health has been a focus topic of the M8 Alliance since 2016. Regular sessions at the World Health Summit and dedicated expert meetings have laid the basis for effective international research networks. The webinar series builds on this tradition and uses the opportunities of digital technologies to involve even more experts from around the world.

Contact:

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Further information:

<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>

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