

A GLOSSARY ON GENDER AND DISPLACEMENT

Displacement is a particular form of migration, in which individuals are forced to move against their will due to factors like conflict, violence, persecution, disasters, or economic hardship. This includes internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, asylum seekers, and others seeking safety or better opportunities, often resulting in significant challenges and the need for humanitarian assistance.¹

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as defined in the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement \(UN, 1998\)](#) refers to persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border.²

Gender-specific risks of displacement refers to the different ways people's livelihoods, security, health, education and housing are impacted depending on their gender. These risks amplify pre-existing gender inequalities and vary significantly among women, men, children and individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI). For example, displaced women face an increased risk of gender-based violence. Recognising these risks is essential in developing adequate responses that address the needs of all groups.

Gender analysis refers to a systematic analytical tool used to identify, understand, and explain the different roles, needs, and opportunities of men, women and individuals with diverse SOGI, and the relations between them. It identifies inequalities in terms of power, resources, and opportunities and analyses how the same policies affect these groups differently. Examining gender-based differences in the access to assets, resources, opportunities, and services helps to identify existing, but invisible, bias in planning and designing processes.³

Gender-responsive action refers to the strategic inclusion of diverse perspectives in policies, programmes, and initiatives, ensuring they effectively address and respond to the distinct needs, experiences, and priorities of individuals across all gender identities. By acknowledging and targeting gender-based disparities, this approach fosters equity and empowerment, enabling all individuals to participate fully and fairly in societal, economic, and cultural life. Gender-responsive actions are marked by their commitment to creating sustainable and equitable environments that respect and advance gender equality.⁴

Sex and gender disaggregated data, refers to data collected and tabulated separately according to sex, gender identity and sexual orientation. This data allows policymakers to identify the diverse experiences, needs, capacities and barriers different groups face in displacement situations. Inclusive data collection and analysis can in turn inform gender-responsive policies.

**These definitions are a synthesis of existing definitions. They reflect the IGC's interpretation of these terms as used in context of the IGC Lunch and Learn event 'Gender and Displacement: From Analysis to Action'.*

¹ UNFCCC (2012): Displacement and Migration from Climate Hot-spots in Bangladesh Causes and Consequences; URL: https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/displacement_and_migration_in_bangladesh.pdf

² IDMC (2024): Internal Displacement; URL: [https://www.internal-displacement.org/internal-displacement-#:~:text=Internally displaced persons \(IDPs\) are violations of human rights or](https://www.internal-displacement.org/internal-displacement-#:~:text=Internally%20displaced%20persons%20(IDPs)%20are%20violations%20of%20human%20rights%20or)

³ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation: How to do a Gender Analysis; URL: [https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Gender/Documents/Gendernet Toolbox/Toolbox/Methodic/Gender Analysis EN 180117.pdf](https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Gender/Documents/Gendernet%20Toolbox/Toolbox/Methodic/Gender%20Analysis%20EN%20180117.pdf)

⁴ UNFPA (2021): Gender responsive and/or transformative approaches; URL: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/thematic_note_1_gender_final.pdf