



Course 6: Refugee and migration challenges

Chapter 1: Asylum and migration

Exercise 1, part 1

You will be asked to form groups and will receive some instructions from your facilitator to enable you to complete this exercise.

DEFINITIONS FOR GROUP WORK

1) A **refugee** is 'a person who, owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country' - Article 1: 1951 *UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (UNHCR 2007)

2) **Asylum seekers** are people who have moved across international borders in search of protection under the 1951 convention, but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been settled.

3) The Guiding Principles on International Displacement describe **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** as 'persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (OCHA Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 2001).

4) A **migrant** is 'any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country' (UNESCO undated). A migrant worker is a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national (Article 2, UNGA 1990). Globally, almost 50% of migrants are women (UNDESA 2008).

Exercise 1, part 2

Read the following scenario and discuss the question at the end with your group. Make a list of your priorities on a flip chart.

You have just got home from work when a good friend phones saying he needs to see you urgently – he does not want to talk on the phone. You meet in the local park and he warns you that the police are planning to raid your house and arrest you that night because they are suspicious of the clinic you have been running for the asylum seekers whose claims have failed. They suspect you may have been helping them in their recent protests which turned violent. Your friend says that they are planning to make an example of you so others do not help them and that you should leave immediately.

Luckily your family is on holiday out of the country. You know a place where you can go where you think you will be safe. However your friend says you should not take your car and not arouse suspicion by leaving with a lot of luggage.

WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU?



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Exercise 2, part 1 – calculation

Crude Mortality Rate (CMR)

Definition: The rate of death in the entire population, including both sexes and all ages. The CMR can be expressed with different standard population denominators and for different time periods, however the common one used in humanitarian situations is deaths per 10,000 people / day.

Formula most commonly used during disasters:

$$\text{CMR} = \frac{\text{Total no. of deaths in time period}}{\text{Total population} \times \text{no. of days}} \times 10,000$$

Question

You receive the following data from different sections of a recently established refugee camp during the period April 5th – 10th. The total population of the camp is 21,000. What is the Crude Mortality Rate in the camp for this period? What is interesting about the data from one of these sections?

Section of camp	Deaths >5 years	Deaths <5 years
north section	4	6
south section	3	7
east section	6	10
west section	12	5

Exercise 2, part 2 – role play: diarrhoea prevention programme

This exercise continues from the previous scenario. You will be invited to take up one of the roles below.

Background: *the city is overcrowded with many IDPs from the countryside. Many people have to buy water, and sanitation is not adequate; rubbish is collected intermittently. Local services have been trying to cope with the increased population and have received some local and international help to do this. There has been a situation of general insecurity in the city for the last 8 years; there has been one period of actual fighting.*

A meeting has been called to decide how to combat the rising incidence of diarrhoea in the city. The meeting will decide how to use some funding and other assistance that has been offered by the NGO that is attending the meeting.

Roles:

Head nurse at the local clinic

You have been in post for 15 years. You have seen two NGOs come and set up their own clinics – they only came to see you when they needed to refer someone. They have now left.



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The real value of salaries has fallen drastically and your equipment is old – you would very much like some funding from the NGO but are still a bit nervous about how much they would interfere with your work.

Health project manager from an NGO

This is your first job in this country although you have worked in one similar situation elsewhere. You would have liked to have a larger budget but this was refused by head office. You have heard different things about the national health services – some good, some bad. You have spoken to the NGOs that had health centres here before and were not impressed by the way they had run things.

Local resident's committee representative

You have lived in this area of the city all your life. Your impression is that everyone knows the health staff work as hard as they can, but the queues are long and often the medicines are not available. You are impressed the NGO representative came to talk to you and that you have been invited to this meeting.

You are a bit nervous but are determined to make the following points: the community needs to be able to get medicines when they come to the clinic – particularly antibiotics, and they should not have to queue for more than an hour.

Responsible for the area from the Ministry of Health

You have recently received a promotion and are keen to prove you can manage the new post. You tried to get the NGO Representative to increase the budget but he didn't. You have another meeting in an hour's time and are worried that you may be late.

You are happy about the money going to this clinic, but are worried about the reaction of the staff of other clinics when they hear about it, and unsure why the NGO chose this one. In particular you are concerned about the funds being used to increase salaries. You are keen to make sure the NGO follows national guidelines.

You have 10 mins to prepare for the meeting; during this time you can request more information from the facilitator if you need it.

Exercise part 3 - brainstorm

The clinic received the funding and it has helped improve services and reduce waiting times.

At a staff meeting several staff raise concerns about an increase in the number of cases of domestic violence they are seeing. Most of the women seem to come from the area where a lot of IDPs have settled. The Head Nurse calls a separate meeting to discuss what they can do about it; he suggests they ask for funds from the NGO.

In plenary brainstorm and discuss:

- a) what would you try and do
- b) what would you ask for funds for.



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Chapter 3: Adapting to a new landscape

Exercise 3 – legislation exercise

A number of titles and summary content of EU directives and legislation are written on separate bits of paper and placed on the floor. Your task is to unite the directives/legislation with the correct title.

Exercise 4 – experiences of the other

The following statement is written on a flip chart on the wall:

The 'Other' is something apart from the self. It may be an individual but is often a group, 'them' as opposed to 'us'. It has been argued that who and what 'others' are is intimately related to 'our' notion of who and what 'we' are. 'We' use 'Other' to define ourselves. We understand ourselves in relation to what we are not' (Kitzinger and Wilkinson 1996:8).



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Chapter 4: Ethics and self-care for health workers

Exercise 5 - Interactive role play: under pressure

You will be asked to role play an interaction between an individual working with asylum seekers and her colleagues. The individual's behaviour has changed. As one of the colleagues, if you feel you can help offer to have a chat with the individual, and really try and find out what is wrong and what you can do to help her. If you want to stop the conversation and imagine that you are restarting it in another place, or at a later time, just say that this is what has happened. If someone else is talking to the individual, and you think that you can do better, tap that person on the shoulder, they then have to stop and you take over.