

Family Violence Prevention in the Context of COVID-19 and Forced Displacement

Knowledge Brief Launch Event

Thursday, May 13, 2021

10 am – 11:15 am Eastern Daylight Time (New York, USA)

9 am – 10:15 am (Colombia)

bit.ly/familyviolenceprevention

[Speaker biographies](#)

Moderator:



Arturo Harker Roa, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Government at the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

After finishing his Ph.D. in Economics at University of California, Los Angeles, **Dr. Harker Roa** joined in 2012 the faculty team of the School of Government at the Universidad de los Andes as Assistant Professor. Dr. Harker Roa's expertise concentrates on applied microeconomics and quantitative public policy evaluation. His research agenda has centered on studying the impact of adverse childhood experiences –such as exposure to violence, crime, forced displacement and extreme poverty– on the development of cognitive, social and emotional abilities. Dr. Harker Roa's efforts have focused on the design and evaluation of interventions that help mitigate this impact. Namely, his most recent research projects focus on the impact of urban violence on children and adolescents and implementing programs to protect early childhood in the context of civil violence in Colombia.

Panelists:



Goleen Samari, PhD, MPH, MA, Professor, Population and Family Health at the Columbia University Medical Center, New York, USA

Dr. Goleen Samari is a public health demographer whose research focuses on social inequities and health. Taking a health justice approach, she examines how racism, gender inequities, and migration-based inequities and xenophobia shape population health both domestically and globally with a particular focus on communities in or from the Middle East and North Africa. She largely focuses on issues related to immigrant health, women's health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Building on the legacy of structural racism and health scholars, she was the first to draw attention to racialization of religious minorities and Islamophobia as a public health issue. She is also one of a handful of public health researchers examining women's empowerment and reproductive health in the Middle East and North Africa. Her research remains focused on understanding and alleviating intersectional structural determinants of health. Cutting across all her research areas is an interest in the way social science constructs are measured and mixed methods that guide the research process. Her work also aims to bridge the gap between research and policy, making research accessible for wide audiences. Her research has been published in several journals including Social Science & Medicine and the American Journal of Public Health, and her editorials and Op-Eds have been published in local and national newspapers. She is privileged to be recognized as a thought leader on the health effects of discrimination and to have received a few notable honors for her contributions to health equity research.



Emmanuel Neisa, Director, Clickarte, Bogotá, Colombia

Emmanuel Neisa holds a B.A. in Political Science and a Master in Communications from Sciences Po Paris. He is a publisher of children's books, specialist in the creation of educational content and Director of the ClickArte pedagogical agency in Bogotá. He has led educational projects for organizations including UNICEF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, UNHCR, the European Union and over 50 educational institutions.



Tina Musuya, MA, Executive Director, CEDOVIP, Kampala, Uganda

Tina Musuya, MA has 16 years of experience of working with communities, police, civil society, local government and policymakers to prevent violence against women (VAW). She also led implementation of the successful pilot of the SASA! program in Kampala, a ground-breaking initiative that reduced physical intimate partner violence by 52%. She coordinated the development of the Uganda Police Force Domestic Violence handbook and the police GBV training manual. As a member of Uganda Law Reform Commission Task Force, she helped draft and successfully campaigned for passage of the Domestic Violence Act, and continues to guide on its implementation.



Diana Abou Abbas, Executive Director, Marsa Sexual Health Center, Beirut, Lebanon

Diana Abou Abbas was trained in Communication Arts. After beginning her career in culture and the private sector, she decided to shift gears and use her skills and potentials to serve social movements. Abou Abbas joined newly formed young feminist groups and actively participated in the development of a creative online publication. After that, she specialized in sexual and reproductive health and rights and began her new journey as a communication expert with Marsa Sexual Health Center. She then gained more responsibilities to become the Executive Director of the organization. During her tenure, she has furthered the geographical, community, and thematic outreach of the organization, played a leading role in placing the question of sexual and reproductive health and rights on the agenda of policy makers and donors involved in Lebanon. Most importantly, she has created a safe space for the queer community to seek help, services, support, and friendship. Her work in Marsa has been recognized globally as the organization won a distinguished award from UNAIDS for the prevention of sexual transmission of HIV. Abou Abbas is actively involved in the intersectional feminist movement in Lebanon and the region as she continuously supports, mentors, and nurtures emerging queer groups. She extends effort into building intergenerational links amongst feminists, as well as reach out and collaborate with groups of women with disabilities, as well as refugee and displaced women. She serves on the Resource Allocation Technical Committee of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and has been recently invited to join the board of the Doria Feminist Fund, the first women's fund from the Middle East and North Africa region. She is also the Co-Chair of the NGO CSW New York for the Arab region, and has been pushing for safeguarding intersectional feminist spaces and engaging young queer feminists. She has co-authored several articles related to sexual and reproductive health and rights including Prevalence of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and their association with sexual practices and substance use among 2238 MSM in Lebanon and Prevalence of STIs, sexual practices and substance use among 2083 sexually active unmarried women in Lebanon, which are based on the largest sample size of such studies in the MENA region. She shares her life with her partner and tripod cat who are equally passionate and committed to diversity, rights, equality, and justice.



Leloba Pahl, MA, Learning Development Officer (GBV), UNHCR, Budapest, Hungary

Leloba Pahl, MA is a Learning Development Officer (GBV) in the UNHCR Global Learning and Development Centre (GLDC) in Budapest, Hungary. An international development and migration policy specialist with in-depth knowledge of cross-cutting gender-based violence (GBV), Child Protection and community-based protection issues, Leloba has worked for UNHCR in various capacities over the last 11 years. This involved work on Child Protection (CP), GBV and GBV Information Management (GBVIMS) from UNHCR HQ in Geneva as part of an inter-agency technical team. Her previous field experience includes emergency response as a Field Officer (Protection) in Dadaab, Kenya and a roving Protection Officer (GBV/CP) based in Costa Rica focused on work with civil society partners and government authorities in Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica to establish the Regional Safe Spaces Network. Leloba is the GLDC's project manager for the Safe from the Start project which involves the integration of GBV in learning programmes and mainstreaming of GBV risk mitigation interventions across sectors and other areas of work in various humanitarian operational contexts related to forced displacement (i.e. refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, mixed movements, returnees). Leloba graduated from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey with a Master's degree in International Policy Studies in Development and Migration. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geotechnical engineering from UCLA and enjoys quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Her professional career started as a credentialed teacher in the United States and Colombia with work also as a youth counsellor, community mobilizer and teacher of reproductive health to adolescent boys and girls.