

Rutgers

For sexual and
reproductive health
and rights

Forced Migration & SRHR



SRHR inadequately recognised in humanitarian programmes

Currently, there are more than 65 million refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world.

They are confronted with problems that often touch upon the broad spectrum of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Due to migration, people are unfamiliar with the SRHR services in the designated host countries leading to many unmet needs, such as family planning, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) support and safe abortion.

However, in the current national and international refugee crisis, SRHR is hardly recognised within humanitarian programmes. And when addressed, the services are mainly focused on women and girls. Men and boys are often an 'underserved' group, yet they also deserve access to SRHR services.

'Many refugees originate from conflict areas where sexual and reproductive health and rights are seldom prioritised, and even less in the places they seek refuge.'

Pinar Okur
Programme Lead Forced Migration & SRHR

Access to SRHR is a pathway to recovery, risk reduction and resilience

Evidence shows that SRHR are as vital to an effective response as food, shelter and water¹. Furthermore, ensuring information about and access to SRHR proves to be a pathway to recovery, risk reduction and resilience.

Against this background, Rutgers started the programme Forced Migration & SRHR in 2016. The programme aims to embed, integrate and mainstream SRHR programming in humanitarian settings, for young people, women and men.

The objective of the programme is to support humanitarian organisations and professionals working in fragile settings and in protracted crises, by implementing Rutgers' core competencies as an added value to the humanitarian programme. Our work is especially strong on the inter-connection between humanitarian action and development aid, such as response preparedness and resilience building.

Rutgers offers SRHR tools for the humanitarian sector

By adding the knowledge and experience of the Forced Migration & SRHR programme to existing interventions, Rutgers can create an additional pillar of safety and trust. We do this through a Multi-Component Approach:

- **Tools:** Capacity building of (local and international) health staff; community workers and (young) volunteers working in fragile settings; education; services; and trainings; such as, the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP).
- **Assessments:** Regarding the humanitarian principle of needs-based aid, Rutgers will conduct a needs assessment in no more than two weeks.
- **Enabling environment:** Advocacy activities within broad humanitarian networks (i.e. Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG), Countdown 2030, EuroNGOs) to create a more enabling environment in which refugees are free to access their SRHR.

¹ UNFPA, State of the World Population 2015. Shelter from the Storm. A transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world.



Safety, Access and Dignity underpin the Forced Migration & SRHR programme

Rutgers contributes to the three humanitarian values of safety, access and dignity, through a complementary approach:

- **Safety:** Increasing safety of vulnerable groups by creating online and offline safety; social safety/safe spaces; and prevention of SGBV and child marriage.
- **Access:** Creating better access to SRHR services by making them more youth friendly and inclusive.
- **Dignity:** Enhancing gender equality and respecting sexual diversity by including the needs of female, male and other gender identities in all of our work.



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Interested in working with us on this issue?

Please contact Pinar Okur at: forcedmigration@rutgers.nl.

For more information go to: www.rutgers.international/

Forced-Migration-and-SRHR

Rutgers' track record

Rutgers' track record ranges from various Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) trainings and SGBV prevention programmes in fragile regions to assessments and online tools for refugees in and outside the Netherlands.

Examples include:

- www.Zanzu.nl, a website on SRHR topics, especially for refugee groups, in 14 spoken and written languages,
- Welkom op school, a CSE programme for minor asylums and refugees in The Netherlands, with particular attention to relationships and sexuality (<https://www.rutgers.nl/producten/welkom-op-school>),
- The World Starts With Me, a CSE programme in primary schools in Burundi (<https://www.rutgers.international/what-we-do/comprehensive-sexuality-education/depth-world-starts-me>),
- Prevention+, a programme that addresses the root causes of SGBV and tools to prevent it (<https://www.rutgers.international/programmes/prevention-programme>),
- Study on early marriages among Syrian refugees and in Jordanian society,
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights of people on the move, an article published in MT Bulletin of NVTG (https://www.rutgers.nl/sites/rutgersnl/files/PDF/nvtg_mt_2016-8-9.pdf),
- Gender Bias in Humanitarian Aid - What about the men, an article published in MT Bulletin of NVTG (https://www.rutgers.international/sites/rutgersorg/files/PDF/nvtg_mt_2016-22-23.pdf)