Working with Sexual and Gender Minorities in Contexts affected by Fragility, Conflict and Violence

August 5, 2020 9:00AM E.T.

Dominik Koehler and Nicolas Salazar
World Bank Commitments to SOGI-Inclusive Development

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development & SDGs
- World Bank Environmental and Social Framework
- ESF Directive on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable groups
- SOGI and Non Discrimination Good Practice Note

Living Our Values: Code of Conduct
The Bank Directive on **Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups** addresses sexual orientation and gender identity:

“disadvantaged or vulnerable” refers to those individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, **sexual orientation, gender identity**, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits.
SOGI Inclusion Pillars of Work

Data and Knowledge Generation

Environmental and Social Framework Implementation

Client Requested Operations and Analytics
Environmental and Social Framework Implementation

- Operational/Implementation support
  - SOGI Good Practice Note
  - SOGI country notes
  - Consultations with SGMs ensuring safety, security and confidentiality
- Staff capacity building
- PiU capacity building
Global fragility landscape and SOGI-based violence in FCV

*Millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance
1. **Data Gap.** FCV countries are among the most data deprived, BUT data collection is extremely tough in FCV-affected environments and even more on social issues that are criminalized by the law.

2. **Security and safety.** The security and safety of those from which data is collected should never be put in jeopardy. Data capturing techniques must be customized according to the security/FCV-related context.

3. **Intersectionality and development programming.** Plays a key role when multiple disadvantages overlap (i.e. social class, disability, race, ethnicity). Different levels of vulnerability among LGBTI people.
Key highlights

- **79.5 million** people were forcibly displaced as of December 2019.
- **80%** of the world’s displaced people are in countries and territories affected by severe food insecurity and malnutrition.
- **Minorities** have additional protection needs.
1. **Challenges at ALL phases of the displacement cycle.** Country of origin---- Country of Asylum----- Durable Solutions. Challenges are higher for transgender and visibly gender non-conforming individuals.

2. **Working with the host community.** 80% are in countries affected by food insecurity. Working with host communities is of critical importance to reduce tensions between ‘new’ and ‘old’ neighbors.

3. **Many countries of asylum are FCV-affected too.** Consider FCV-linked challenges (i.e. forced recruitment, SGBV) in host communities.

4. **Humanitarian-development-private sector partnerships.** Play a key role in securing the socioeconomic integration of LGBTI people (See Global Compact on Refugees). Humanitarian and development interventions are mutually-complementary.
Case No. 1: Nahla (26-year old Beirut-based LGBT+ CSO Director)

A multi-lateral development bank (MDB) is organizing consultations on a health project that will impact over 15,000 Syrian refugees in Beirut’s western outskirts. Nahla is the director of an LGBTI organization and was invited to participate in the public consultation. Nahla is a Beirut-based Kurdish woman from Alepo (Syria), and is very active in local SOGI politics. The multi-lateral development bank is very interested in understanding sexual and gender minorities’ views on the project. Nahla is interested in attending the consultations yet she knows that the neighborhood where they were invited has a strong presence of religious groups that have publicly expressed strong anti-SOGI views and that have publicly condemned the work of her NGO.
Case studies: Three life stories different challenges

Case No. 2: Marco (19-year-old Venezuelan gay asylum-seeker in Colombia)

Marco is a 19-year old gay man from Venezuela seeking international protection/asylum in neighboring Colombia. He is one of the 1.7 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia. Marco is HIV+ and crossed into Colombia seeking the antiretroviral treatment he could no longer find in his country of origin, and fleeing from a criminal band which attacked visibly gender non-conforming people in his suburb. Marco rented a small room in the outskirts of Cucuta - a border town with a strong presence of armed actors involved in Colombia’s protracted armed conflict. Armed groups are offering Venezuelan asylum-seekers between 25-35USD per day to join them. The monthly salary in Venezuela is 3USD.