

Forced migration and adolescent mental health: understanding the cultural determinants of mental health in a context of mass displacement

Hannah Sender (UCL) and Joana Dabaj (CatalyticAction)



The project addresses a major problem faced by young people in areas affected by displacement. It is estimated that over 50% of Syrian displaced people living in Lebanon are children and adolescents. The conflict and displacement experienced by Syrians and host communities in Lebanon is likely to have a profound and lasting impact on young people's mental health. Both the Lebanese Government and UNHCR have expressed serious concerns about creating a 'lost generation' of young people due to lack of support during important periods of intellectual and social development.

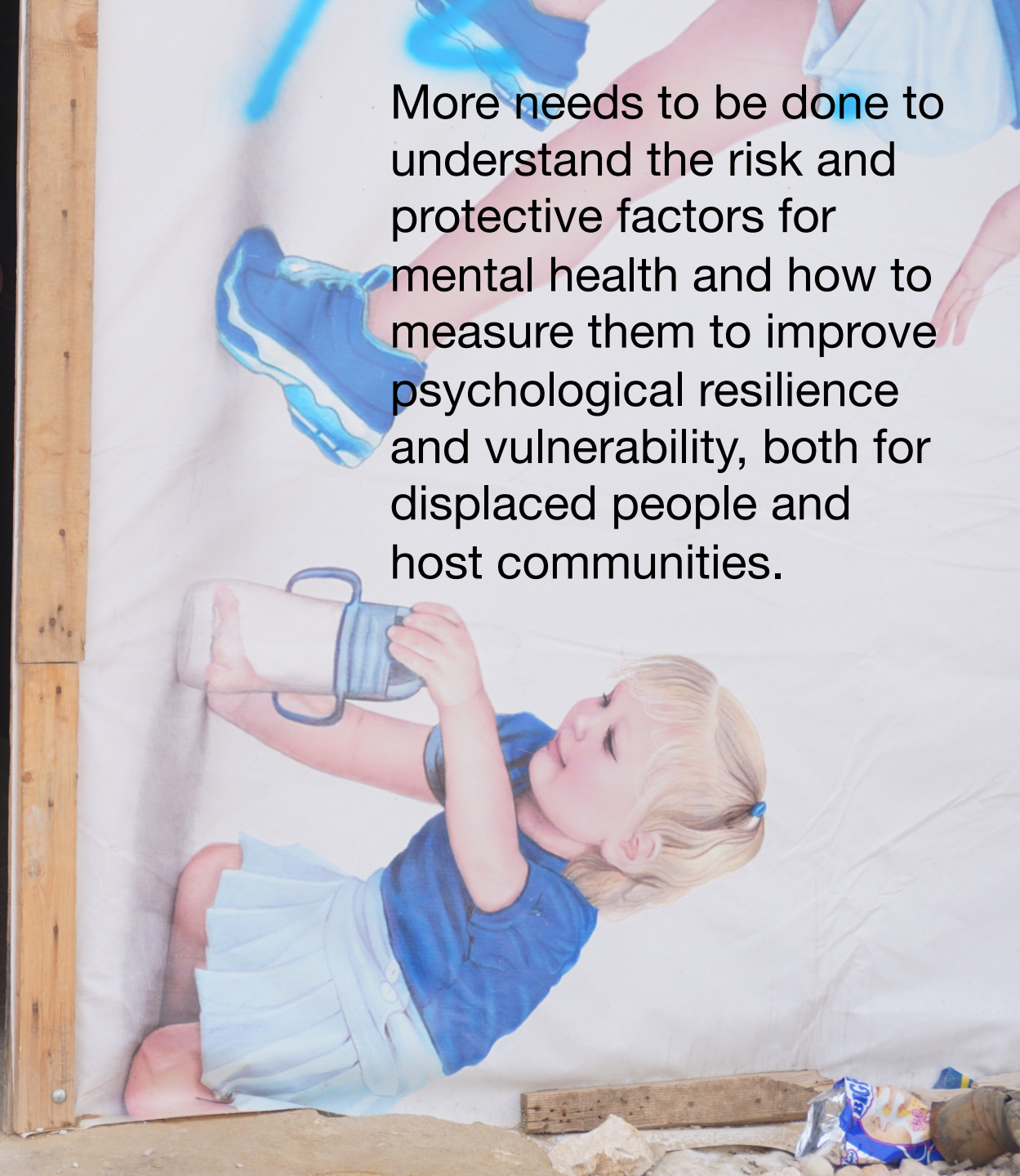
Project team

(PI) Dr Delan Devakumar, UCL Global Health

(Co-Is) Professor Henrietta L Moore, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity
Dr Fouad Mohamed Fouad, AUB Department of Epidemiology
and Population Health

(Researcher) Hannah Sender, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity

(Project partner) CatalyticAction charity



‘Forced migration and mental adolescent health’ will engage with adolescents in Bar Elias, Lebanon to understand how displacement impacts on their mental health and wellbeing. Our team brings together experts in adolescent health (including mental health, communicable and non-communicable diseases), migration, social anthropology, epidemiology, qualitative methodologies and participatory engagement.

The team will explore issues of identity, including the adoption of multiple identities, interactions with friends and family (social capital), education and healthcare (access to and opportunities), socio-economic status, cultural factors, and the living environment.



Bar Elias is located in the Beqaa valley of Lebanon, its population doubled from 2011 to 2013 due to the influx of displaced Syrians.

It is considered to be one of the most vulnerable localities where the ratio of refugees to deprived Lebanese is at least three to one or more (UNHCR, 2015).

METHODOLOGY

OBJECT

Recognition and response

Trajectories

The lived environment

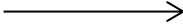
Discussion

METHODS

MENTAL
HEALTHCARE
SYSTEMS
ANALYSIS



LIFE
HISTORIES

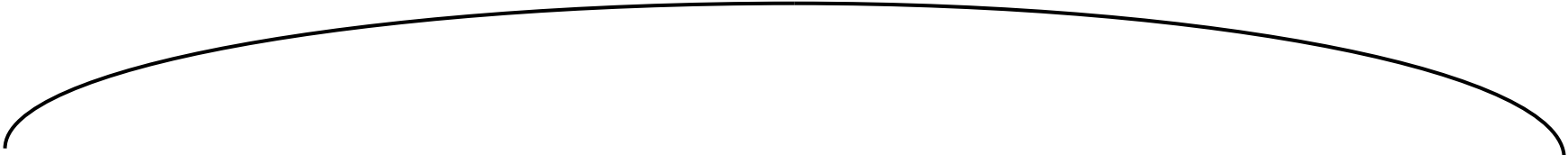


PARTICIPATORY
PHOTOGRAPHY



EXHIBITION

THEMES



COLLABORATORS

- MultiAidProgram: Health program
- Kayany foundation: Adolescent women education program
- SAWA for Development and Aid: Psychosocial Support Program
- Lebanese Physical Handicap Unit LPHU: Persons with disabilities
Mental wellbeing
- Union of Relief and Development Association: the largest “camp” in Bar Elias.

50-60 adolescents

15-17 years old

Boys and girls

Lebanese and Syrian



Thank you !

