

# FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC:

LOCALIZED RESPONSES TO COVID- 19'S IMPACT ON REFUGEES,  
IDPS, AND COMMUNITIES LIVING IN CHRONIC DISPLACEMENT

When: 24 June 2021  
9:00 -10:30 am EST

## SPEAKERS:



**Muzna Dureid**

Liaison Officer,  
The White Helmets, Canada



**Weeam Hammoudeh**

Assistant Professor at the Institute  
of Community and Public Health,  
Birzeit University, West Bank



**Sabina F. Rashid**

Dean and Professor at the  
BRAC School of Public Health,  
BRAC University, Bangladesh

## Public Zoom Webinar

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Co-moderated by  
Montasser Kamal, Program Leader for Health  
Research Partnerships, IDRC, Canada  
and James Miner, Project Director, LERRN



## Description of the webinar

The seventh webinar in the LERRN–IDRC webinar series on forced displacement focuses on forced displacement and health systems in the global South. The webinar will examine what the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic reveals about how health systems respond to the health needs of the forcibly displaced and how social, cultural and economic factors and power relations shape responses. Drawing on lessons from Bangladesh, Syria, and the West Bank and Gaza, it will consider how localized actors and approaches can identify areas of innovation to improve access and health outcomes for refugees, IDPs and other forcibly displaced people.

The LERRN-IDRC webinar series on forced displacement serves to create a forum for engagement between localized perspectives by actors from significant refugee-hosting contexts with Canadian and global policymakers. Engaging with current forced migration debates within the context of COVID-19, the webinars seek to amplify the voices and perspectives of partners closest to the issues. These seminars will address several dimensions of forced displacement, such as education, health, and refugee leadership, within broader questions on migration drivers and sustainable knowledge ecosystems in the Global South.

**LERRN** is a team of researchers and practitioners committed to promoting protection and solutions with and for refugees. The goal is to ensure that refugee research, policy and practice are shaped by a more inclusive, equitable and informed collective engagement of civil society.

Part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, **IDRC** invests in knowledge, innovation, and solutions to improve the lives of people in the developing world. Bringing together the right partners around opportunities for impact, IDRC builds leaders for today and tomorrow and helps drive change for those who need it most.



**Muzna Dureid**

Muzna Dureid is Policy Analyst and Humanitarian Practitioner who arrived in Montreal in November 2016. On her journey to Canada, she was involved actively in multiple initiatives and networks focusing on child and forced marriage issues among Syrian refugees since 2012 when the first wave of Syrian refugees fled to the neighboring countries by founding “Women Refugees, not Captives, a campaign” aiming to end forced and child marriages of Syrian women refugee and girls. Muzna is an MA student in Public Policy and Public Administration at Concordia University. she is the liaison officer at The White Helmets (the winner of an alternative Nobel prize for peace in 2016). Recently, she is coordinating COVID-19 related project to produce PPE locally in North West Syria at the White Helmets manufacture.



**Weeam Hammoudeh**

Dr Weeam Hammoudeh is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Community and Public Health, where she teaches in the MPH program and is coordinator for the mental health unit. She holds a Ph.D. and MA in Sociology from Brown University and an MPH in Community and Public Health from Birzeit University. Her academic focus is on understanding how political and social transformations impact health, psychosocial wellbeing, health and social systems, and population processes, particularly in Palestine. She is currently or has been involved in research projects on a range of topics, including youth mental health and wellbeing, adolescent refugee girls' health, deprivation, and mental health, and health system preparedness in the COVID response. She has published extensively in academic and non-academic outlets, and is a member of various research and advocacy networks, including the Reproductive Health Working Group (RHWG), the Palestine-Global Mental Health network, and a policy member at Al-Shabaka.

## Meet the Panelists



**Sabina F. Rashid**

Sabina F. Rashid, PhD, is Dean and Professor at the BRAC School of Public Health, BRAC University. A medical anthropologist by training, she has over 25 years of work experience in Bangladesh. Her areas of expertise are ethnographic and qualitative research, with a focus on urban populations, adolescents, and marginalized groups. She is particularly interested in examining the impact of structural and social factors on the ability of these populations to realize their health and rights. She is passionate about community engagement in teaching and learning approaches and qualitative research designs.

# Meet the Co-Moderators



## Montasser Kamal

Montasser has MD, Diploma, MSc, and PhD degrees in medicine, international development, and medical anthropology from Egypt, the UK and Canada. Montasser is the Program Leader for Health Research Partnerships at Canada's International Development Research Centre. Before joining IDRC Montasser was the Deputy Director for Global Health Policy and Research at Global Affairs Canada. He also worked at the former Canadian International Development Agency CIDA as the Team Leader of the Health Specialists, and brings experience as a Reproductive Health Policy Advisor and as Manager of Multilateral Health Institutions and Partnerships. Between 2007-2014 he work at the Regional Office of the Ford Foundation in Cairo where he was a Senior Program Officer for Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS in part supporting implementation research and strengthening the health policy environment around sexual and reproductive health and rights. Montasser's areas of interest and expertise include implementation research, forced displacement and refugee health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, health systems strengthening, political economy of health, and evidence use.



## James Milner

James Milner is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Carleton University. He is also currently Project Director of LERRN: The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network. He has been a researcher, practitioner and policy advisor on issues relating to the global refugee regime, global refugee policy and the politics of asylum in the global South. In recent years, he has undertaken field research in Burundi, Guinea, Kenya, India, Tanzania and Thailand, and has presented research findings to stakeholders in New York, Geneva, London, Ottawa, Bangkok, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and elsewhere. He has worked as a Consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in India, Cameroon, Guinea and its Geneva Headquarters. He is author of *Refugees, the State and the Politics of Asylum in Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), co-author of *UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection* (Routledge, 2012), and co-editor of *Refugees' Roles in Resolving Displacement and Building Peace: Beyond Beneficiaries* (Georgetown, 2019) and *Protracted Refugee Situations: Political, Human Rights and Security Implications* (UN University Press, 2008).