

## SESSION 10.1

# Who Are the Refugees

## *Session at a glance*

Content	Approx. Time	Instructional Activity
Introduction	10 minutes	short video & brainstorming
Visualizing refugee life	15 minutes	Video clip & brainstorming
People-Oriented Planning Overview Presentation	30 minutes	Plenary Presentation
Wrap-up	05 minutes	Plenary Presentation
<b>Total Time</b>	<b>60 minutes</b>	

## *Main objectives*

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

- Put a “human face” on the refugee population
- overcome the common phenomenon of treating the displacement in gross numbers only without considering the sub-group characteristics of the refugees.

## *Supplies*

Flip charts and markers

Overhead or data projector

Session 10.1. Overheads

EMTP video exercise tape (video exercise #1)

## *Key Points*

The main points in this session include:

- The definition of “a refugee” from the 1951 UN Convention and the 1967 Protocol explains the feeling of fear common to all refugees but does not reveal the different characteristics of refugee groups and individuals and the unique personal resources they possess.
- There are millions of refugees, asylum seekers, and other “people of concern to UNHCR” in the world and even greater numbers of displaced persons. There are large masses of refugees in certain regions, and current “hot spots” where relief agencies are focusing.
- There are two basic facts to remember when working with refugees:
  1. All refugees are not the same and any single refugee group is not homogeneous.
  2. Refugees are people with strengths and capacities on which to build emergency programming responses.

- The People Oriented Planning framework can be used to understand who the refugees are in any context. This framework examines the situation before and after people were displaced or became refugees, in three areas:
  1. family demographic profile and context
  2. activities analysis - what did people do?, who did it?, and how has this changed?
  3. resource analysis - what resources did people rely on?, who used which resources?, and how has this changed?
  
- Management decisions that do not consider differences in culture, demographics, and personal need among refugees can have negative effects in both the short and long term.

## **Session Activities**

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### ***Introduction***

10 minutes

Begin by reviewing *briefly* the refugee and displaced “scene” in the world both globally and locally. Use the overheads provided and/or overheads of newspaper headlines to indicate the large numbers of refugees and IDPs in the world.

Read the definition of a refugee and have the participants mention what it tells and does not tell. Write the participants’ comments on a flip chart. Particularly important is the fact that the refugees have lost control of their lives. This should emerge from the discussion. If not, stress this before continuing moving to the video.

### ***Visualizing Refugee Life***

15 minutes

Show the EMTP video exercise #1 - “Who are the Refugees?” At the end of the tape pause the video on the instruction screen and discuss the questions with the group.

You may want to write other questions on the flip chart prior to viewing the clip and ask the participants to be thinking about these as well as they watch the clip. Sample questions include:

- Who are the Refugees?
- What are their unique characteristics?
- What is their problem?
- What resources do they have?

Discuss the answers to the questions.

### ***People-Oriented Planning Overview Presentation***

30 minutes

#### **POP Introduction:**

Use the overheads as a vehicle for introducing the POP concept. Stress the importance of (1) understanding differences and capacities, (2) identifying Gender, Age and Family Composition differences in a particular population and (2) Change as a critical concern of the POP framework.

Take questions/comments from participants but keep the discussion moving. It should be made clear that POP is a *framework* for organizing a general or initial needs and resources assessment and is not meant to be a separate activity.

***Wrap-up***

*5 minutes*

Use the final overhead to wrap up the session with a brief discussion about the need to question your own assumptions about refugees and the displaced. Slides can be selected which depict a situation, such as men gathering around a water distribution point as the equipment is installed. (Based on this, one might assume that men are interested in water collection but rather they are only interested in the equipment. When it is time to fetch water, there may well be no men present.)

Review and summarize the basic points of the session.