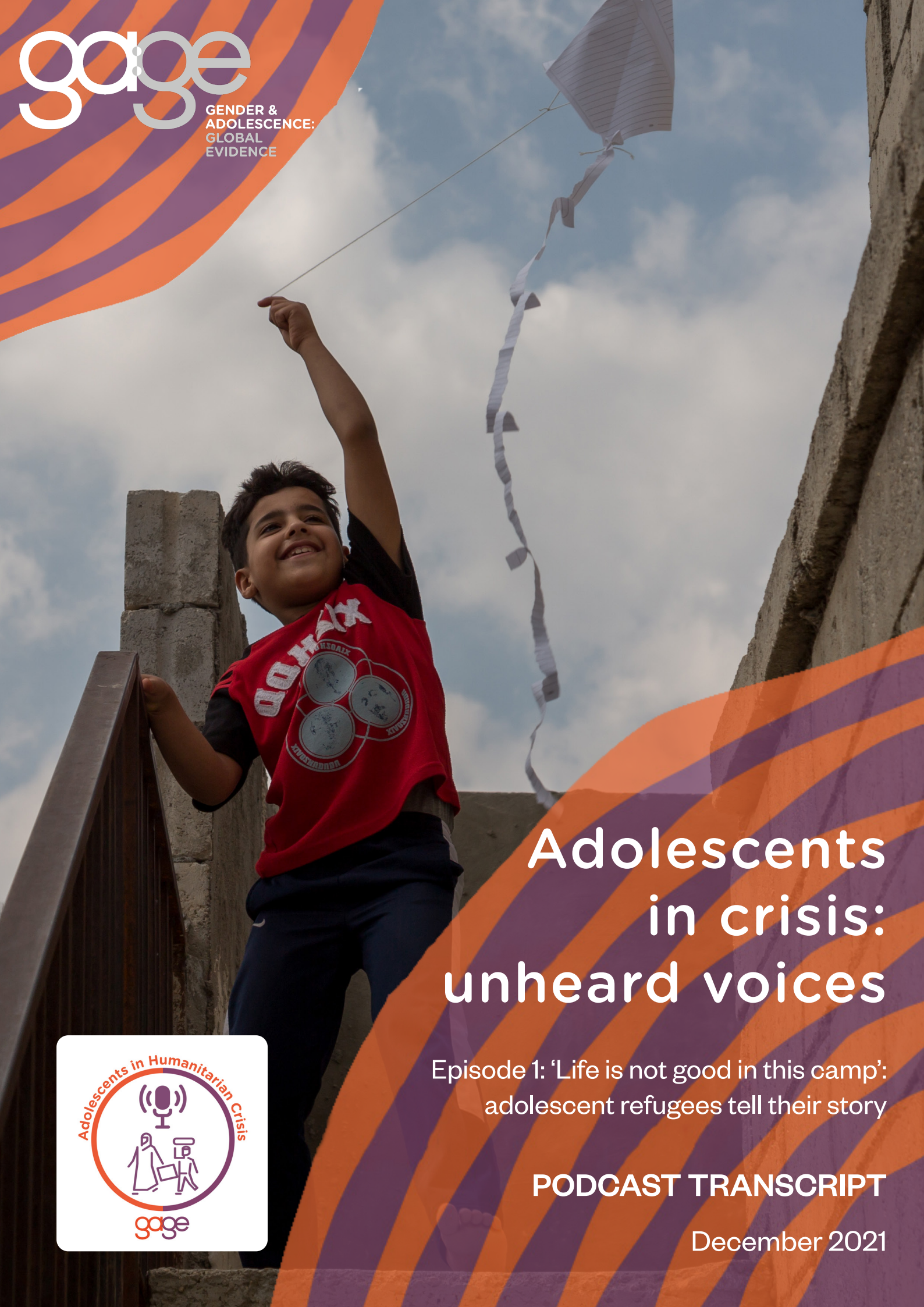
GENDER & ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE



Adolescents in crisis: unheard voices

Episode 1: 'Life is not good in this camp': adolescent refugees tell their story

PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

December 2021

Adolescents in Humanitarian Crisis

gage

PODCAST | Adolescents in crisis: unheard voices

'Life is not good in this camp': adolescent refugees tell their story

Wed, 10/13 11:54AM • 39:23

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

GAGE, adolescents, people, research, refugees, Ethiopia, Jordan, support, families, Khalid, adolescence, displacement, young, displaced, home, conflict, life, humanitarian crisis, living

SPEAKERS

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Assem Chreif: The Lebanese Organisation of Studies and Training (LOST)
Prerna Banati: UNICEF
Jude Sajdi: GAGE Research Uptake and Impact Coordinator
Dr Khadija Mitu: GAGE Qualitative Research Lead (Chittagong)
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Khalid:[1] Adolescent Syrian refugee
Sally Youssef: GAGE Qualitative Research Coordinator (Lebanon)
Rayan Makani
Fatuma: Adolescent IDP in Ethiopia
Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell: CEO, Girls Not Brides

00:03

Fastest growing humanitarian crisis as 1000s of Rohingya refugees...

Martha Dixon: Journalist 00:07

It is estimated that 10,000 Palestinians have had to leave their homes to flee the Israeli...

00:13

Almost as far as the eye could see left and right at the tide of humanity...

Martha Dixon: Journalist 00:20

Welcome to the first episode of the GAGE podcast series- Adolescents in crisis: unheard voices. I'm your host, journalist, Martha Dixon. In these landmark programmes, we ask how can we help create a better future for young people who've been caught up in the increasing tide of global displacement? Groundbreaking research gets to the root of what's needed to turn young lives around by handing the microphone to those affected.

Adolescent Syrian Refugee 00:54

Sometimes we don't have enough food, they don't give us enough food here. So life is not good here in the camp.

Khalid: Adolescent Syrian refugee 01:02

When we were in Syria, I used to feel like I was a child. I used to play in the streets. But living in Jordan means that I have to work to bring food home for my sisters and my family.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 01:19

Interviewing 20,000 people on the ground over a period of nine years, the research by GAGE shines a light on a neglected group. A group that with support, has the power to forge new paths for the whole community, adolescents.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 01:36

It's critical that we understand their perspectives because to understand their realities now, but also because they will be you know, tomorrow's future leaders.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 01:45

GAGE is finding out what works and what doesn't work to support adolescents who've ended up in a camp or a new unfamiliar place. The things that could make a huge difference to a life path.

Assem Chreif: The Lebanese Organisation of Studies and Training (LOST) 01:59

In GAGE, you are peeling the onion, it's not looking at things at the surface value. It's digging deep into finding the real issue, and to explore patterns and history behind things.

Prerna Banati: UNICEF 02:16

You know, these crises have been around for decades. And we know that we know that they are protracted in many cases, cyclical, intergenerational, and yet, we know so little about what happens to adolescents.

1 Pseudonym used to protect the identity of interviewees.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 02:30

You'll hear from the young people themselves, whose lives GAGE following over time through research in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Gaza, Jordan and Bangladesh. We capture the insights of those who've had to leave everything that was home, both immediately.

Adolescent Syrian refugee 02:52

Firstly, electricity, we don't have any electricity, we don't have any water, we can't cook, we can't wash, we can't do anything.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 02:59

And for years, and even generations to come.

Adolescent Syrian refugee 03:02

I am 17 years old. I've been in this camp for almost 17 years because I was born here.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 03:19

And you'll hear how problems with legal status affect aspirations.

Dr Khadija Mitu: GAGE Qualitative Research Lead (Chittagong) 03:25

A huge number of adolescent population are in a limbo. And their futures are uncertain and they don't know what they are going to do in the future; how they would be surviving.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 03:38

You'll also hear about the deep-rooted agency in the adolescents studied.

Rayan Makani 03:48

I learned I have to spend my time working on things for my future. And even if a dream is hard, we have to accomplish it. I want to be an astronaut. I love space. I love the stars.

Sarah Alheiwidi: GAGE (Jordan) 03:59

But they are fighting so hard to get what they deserve. They are not weak, they are so strong, and they are looking forward to what they are planning for – they are searching for a future.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 04:13

In each episode, we tackle the big issues facing young people who've lost their homes, education, violence, exploitation and child marriage, psychosocial well-being and intersectionality.

Sally Youssef: GAGE (Lebanon) 04:29

Our research is very different and unique compared to other strands of research.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 04:35

You'll hear from GAGE's researchers who are uncovering unheard voices so that policymakers can reframe support.

Sally Youssef: GAGE (Lebanon) 04:43

We have this unique opportunity of building a long-term relationship with our participants, which is built on trust.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 04:52

And you'll hear how stakeholders are reacting to the new evidence being unearthed.

Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell: CEO, Girls Not Brides 04:57

What GAGE has helped us to do is to not only understand the policy angle of the work we are doing. But they also help us understand some of the research around what works and what doesn't work, some of the opportunities and the importance of that is that we can take that research, that evidence, and bring the work we are doing to scale.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 05:21

In this episode, we focus on the big picture. The world is facing its biggest humanitarian crisis ever, in terms of people fleeing their homes. According to the UN, over 70 million people are now displaced because of problems like persecution, climate crises, and conflict. Nearly half of those are under 18. The global think tank the Overseas Development Institute has spearheaded a landmark research programme to address the gaps in knowledge about how younger people are affected by these crises, called GAGE or Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. The programme is speaking to over 20,000 young people over a period of nine years. GAGE examines the different circumstances that have led to so many losing their homes. The evidence shows that different approaches are needed for different communities to ensure integration. And the best outcome.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 06:21

Focusing on adolescents affected by humanitarian crises is vital.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 06:26

Nicola Jones is the director of GAGE.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 06:28

Within crisis context, the visibility of young people has until quite recently been very limited among policymakers and donors. And it's been hindered by a lack of evidence on young people's experiences in different types of humanitarian crisis. So within the GAGE research programme, we've been very keen to address this gap. So we've carried out surveys and in depth interviews with 1000s of refugees from diverse humanitarian contexts of varying lengths in Africa, in Asia and the Middle East.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 07:07

GAGE has followed the story of young people like 16-year-old Khalid, a Syrian refugee now living in Jordan. He came in to talk to researchers about his life now. He tells them, he keeps having to move, but he's currently living in a tent made of plastic sheets near the city of Irbid. Because it's not a formal camp, there's little help.

Khalid: Adolescent Syrian refugee 07:38

We came to Jordan, after hearing explosions because of the war in Syria. So we had to emigrate to Jordan.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 07:45

Back in Idlib where Khalid is from, he was a normal boy going to school. But after the family fled to Jordan, everything changed.

Khalid: Adolescent Syrian refugee 07:58

I used to study in Syria. But when we left Syria, because of the war, I had to stop school. We came to Jordan and I started studying for a while, but I had to drop it start working. I started working because my father is sick, and he can't work. I started to earn money from my family. But dropping out of school to do work instead is not a good feeling. Of course, it's not a good feeling, because everyone else is going to school. And I can't go.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 08:30

For Khalid fleeing his home meant his family lost their source of income. It's meant he has had to step up to help support them. And he spent the last five years doing long hours on a farm. The work involves sifting through and moving bags of onions.

Khalid: Adolescent Syrian refugee 09:03

I started working when I was 13 years old. I work on farms. I don't like the sun and the weather. Actually, working under the sun is really hard. Work is hard. When we were in Syria, I used to feel like I was a child. I used to play in the streets. But living in Jordan means that I have to work to bring food home for my sisters and my family.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 09:38

Khalid is clear about what he wants now.

Khalid: Adolescent Syrian refugee 09:45

I want an education. I'm still very young. I haven't started my life. I don't want to be responsible for my whole family. I want to go back to school and not be 13 years old and start work.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 10:05

Syrian families like Khalid's started coming to Jordan in 2011. Most live like Khalid in what's called informal tented settlements, or they rent places where they can. Only a small number (15%) live in camps, like the world famous Zaatari Camp. Overall, 650,000 Syrians are officially registered in Jordan. But government estimates put the figure much higher at around 1.5 million.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 10:36

Until we start capturing the voices of these young people, many people don't even know that they exist.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 10:42

Nicola Jones again.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 10:44

The average person assumes that refugees live in a camp in a tent or a caravan. And even if it's difficult, they do have services in the camps. But actually the many refugees in fact, in Jordan is just 15% who are living in formal camps. The rest of them are either living in these informal settlements. It's also the same in Lebanon, or they're trying to make a life for themselves and their families in host communities. And it's often in the host communities that it's adolescent boys are the ones who are sent out to do odd jobs so that they can provide the money for the rent. Capturing those realities is also really critical.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 11:31

In response to the UN's 2030 agenda to leave no one behind, GAGE found that solutions need to be tailored to each context. In Jordan, legal status problems contribute to difficulties for refugees.

Jude Sajdi: GAGE (Jordan) 11:47

So there are thousands and thousands and thousands of young refugees here in Jordan, who are at risk and face many vulnerabilities because of their legal status.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 11:58

Jude Sajdi is a GAGE researcher in Jordan, as well as being a Research Manager at the King Hussein Foundation, a GAGE consortium partner.

Jude Sajdi: GAGE (Jordan) 12:08

So Syrian refugees are registered under UNHCR, Palestinian refugees are registered under UNRWA. And while they do have some access to for example, free primary and secondary education and some health services, they have limited educational prospects after school, so they can't afford university unless they have access to scholarships. And so many, many, many refugees don't end up in university or get their university degrees. After that, or even before, they are confined in, you know, sectors such as agriculture, construction and manufacturing, which we know are kind of low-skilled, low-paying jobs with no benefits, no social security, no health insurance, and so on. And so this kind of really impacts the aspirations that these adolescents have. And the prospects that they have in order to get themselves out of the cycle of you know, refugee status, poverty, vulnerability and risk. And this, this really, really affects them not because of only on a personal level of what they can achieve, but also because of what is being placed, you know, the restrictions and the implications that are placed on them by their families and parents because of this legal status that the entire family is kind of limited by.

We know that many boys end up working in from a very early age and very hazardous jobs. We know that many girls end up being you know, getting married and being mothers at a very early age because, you know, families can't afford to keep their children at home to feed them and to take care of them and to pay for their you know, educational costs and so on. So this legal status has so many implications at the different life stages, whether, you know, studying, finding employment, getting married, being safe, I think what really works, the scholarships that are available to Syrian refugees, through the different programmes. They are really helpful and without them, they will remain trapped in a cycle of you know, cycle of poverty and cycle of limited opportunities. So we need more scholarships, and we need these scholarships to be accessible to more adolescents.

But also on the other end, we need to also make sure that these other lessons are transitioning from primary education to secondary education and then succeeding you know, and graduating from school in order to get to that, to that, to that place, I also think we need to add some programmes are already doing this thinking about teaching refugees, certain professions, or certain skills that they can use wherever they are. So, for example, translation, copywriting, editing, graphic design, these are all things that they can actually use, if they have access to a computer or a laptop, they can use they can utilize they can make money. And so we kind of reduce the, you know, the impact of the element of the spatial elements. So where they are, they can actually do something and, and make money. And then yeah, like we said, the adolescent friendly spaces are so important, especially in a place like Azraq Camp and in other you know, camp settings, or even urban settings, where it's so you know, there are so many safety concerns, so many safety restrictions, very strong conservative social norms. So having parents know where their adolescents are going, trusting the spaces. And having you know, adolescents go to spaces where they where they can actually talk and play and practice sports and practice arts and music and because all of these things are not you know, there are missing in schools and they're missing in formal curricula. So, there are so important for these other lessons and these are, you know, all of the little things that we can do to kind of support them so that they, you know, the aspirations that they have, they can materialize and they can, you know, make something of themselves in the future.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 17:07

The GAGE team is putting a spotlight on the needs of specific age groups within those who are young and displaced, and highlighting the different needs of girls opposed to boys, helping unheard voices get heard. So why do we need to pay more attention to adolescents, when we're looking at how to help a displaced community build new lives? Nicola Jones again.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 17:36

There is increasing consensus that the second decade of life between 10–19 years of age is really a period of incredible change. And what happens during these years is of equivalent importance for subsequent life trajectories, as the much more discussed critical first 1000 days of life. So, during adolescence, young people undergo multiple physical, cognitive and social and emotional changes, which require support from families, communities and service providers, if adolescents are to reach their full potential or capabilities as they enter into young adulthood. There are, however, multiple barriers to getting the necessary support and crisis contexts. So many young people in crisis settings, for example, have no or very limited access to health and sexual reproductive health care. They may be pressured into child labor or child marriage, especially if their families are struggling economically. This in turn means that they may be shut out of opportunities for education. And equally importantly, from interactions with peers, which is so critical during adolescence, as young people become increasingly independent from their parents. Guidance from parents or trusted adults may also be difficult to access when parents themselves may have experienced deep trauma as a result of displacement and the violence that they may have witnessed. And then there's all too frequently a dearth of counseling services that could provide professional support to young people who have mental health concerns.

So the adolescents that we're working with are facing very challenging, very complex problems, and in many ways you could think about it as a perfect storm. And so given all of these problems, this is where we think it's so vital that we are there capturing their voices, trying to understand their specific problems, but also to hear from them how

the situation can be improved. Because I think what really shines through from these voices is that young people do have strong agency, they do have very clear and strong ideas about what would help them. So, it's vital that we're tapping into that, and not approaching it from armchairs in London, but we're really understanding their ground realities.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 20:15

GAGE also aims to help policymakers and the international community understand where the gaps are.

Prerna Banati: UNICEF 20:22

So for me working at UNICEF, we've really taken this research and I use it. I've been using it regularly.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 20:29

Prerna Banati works in Central and West Africa, on adolescent development for UNICEF, she says GAGE's work is extremely helpful.

Prerna Banati: UNICEF 20:39

I find some really clever innovations, it's been a real value to the research landscape so far on adolescence. For me, the first one is the participatory nature of it. So it is, it is really listening and hearing the voices of young people and having them be part of the research, really engaging with them. This is that they're not they're not passive, passive agents: they're very much recognized as active, agents in the research. So that's the first one.

I think the second one is its longitudinal nature. So of course, it's looking at change over time. And that's such an innovation. To me, the work that we do at UNICEF benefits from the lens of time to look at our interventions and are they effective over time? What does sustainability mean, in terms of interventions? How do children age and grow through the intervention period? And how do we need to be? How do we need to respond? What does adaptive programming mean, and this is the type of research that GAGE does and it has been exceptionally useful in our programming space, our programming work at UNICEF. I think this is really where the work that GAGE does has been so 'on point' – in trying to balance and think about the narratives of young people, both their challenges, but also the opportunities that they experienced, that they face, the opportunities of them in the lives in which they live, their resilience, their ability to bounce back, their needs, their vulnerabilities, their aspirations, are really important parts of understanding the whole young person.

And I think that's also another part that, you know, GAGE has really been very influential and is looking at the multi-dimensional capabilities. So not just, you know, their health or their nutrition, but trying to understand well, other implications for how their health may impact their education or vice versa. So, trying to understand the whole person. As we know, when we meet anybody out, we know, we want to understand the whole person, we want to recognize them as multi-dimensional and complex people, complex beings.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 23:17

It's that complexity that's featured in all of GAGE's research. Multiple methods are used to explore different aspects of adolescent capabilities. They are health and nutrition, education and learning, voice and agency, economic empowerment, bodily integrity, and freedom from violence, and psychosocial well-being. In Ethiopia, one of these capabilities, the issue of economic empowerment is crucial. In the past few years, millions have been displaced within their own country, after conflict and inter-ethnic violence, often driven by struggles over land and water resources. Figures gathered in 2018 showed 2.9 million people have been forced to move elsewhere within Ethiopia. Because they're internally displaced, there's no formal international jurisdiction. But the Ethiopian government does have a commission that reports on the problem to the UN. It means people who've lost their homes don't have international refugee status. So they need to rely on help from the Ethiopian government. People like Fatuma who has a six-month-old baby as well as a three-year-old. She's a participant in GAGE's longitudinal study. Fatuma now lives in a government-supported center for internally displaced people, or IDPs in Batu, south of Addis Abiba. GAGE researchers have been speaking with Fatuma for several years about her experiences since she was brutally forced from her home at the age of 18.

Fatuma: Adolescent IDP in Ethiopia 25:18

It was September 12th 2017. In the morning, my husband went to work then a group of young people came into my home and brutally beat me and my neighbours as well. I was taken to a prison center, my husband was beaten and then taken to prison. The Federal forces came and took me to a displacement center in Batu. I didn't know where my husband was two years because he was taken somewhere else. After two years, we managed to find each other and now we live together in Batu.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 25:54

Fatuma says she was making a relatively good living before her life was disrupted.

Fatuma: Adolescent IDP in Ethiopia 26:02

Before we were forced from our homes, we were really active in our businesses, doing trading and other things and buying up land. When we arrived in the new place, the government promised to support us at the beginning, but we only got food

aid for two years, then it stopped. We had no way of making any money during that time. And when the food support was stopped, it was such a shock. It was unacceptable for the government to dump us like that. I feel like I might go completely mad sometimes because I'm struggling to help my two children to survive.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 26:40

Fatuma says she'd like to start a better business with a shop like she used to have. But there are tensions with the local community. And that makes it hard. Her husband hasn't been able to work. She says she often goes hungry, but manages to survive by trading vegetables she carries by hand from farms into town.

Fatuma: Adolescent IDP in Ethiopia 27:13

We live in a shelter built by the government for displaced people. The house is made of corrugated sheets, both the roof and the wall. During the daytime when it's warm, the inside gets very hot. We feel suffocated. It's difficult to be inside. During the night it gets very cold. The house is really very poorly made. But there are toilets here which is good. For food most of the time we use maize or corn to make porridge and bread. Sometimes we eat three times a day. But when we don't get enough money, we go down to twice or even one time a day. We also eat smaller meals. Because I spend all day at a farm a few miles away, buying vegetables to sell, my three-year-old doesn't get any food during the day or any care. When I'm at work, I take my smaller baby on my back during the day and carry the vegetables using my hands.

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 28:26

Unlike people who've been displaced across country borders, there isn't a UN agency that's responsible for their well-being. So, it's really up to the government who may itself be implicated in the conflict, to take responsibility to ensure that they are provided with their basic needs and can be rehabilitated in new communities. In Ethiopia, there is the Ministry of Peace, which has done a lot to resettle the 2 million plus people that were displaced in 2017/2018. It was the largest number globally at that time. But many young people who were separated from their families are still not back in their home communities due to fear and poverty and not even having the resources to afford the bus back to their their home community. So these are really very, very vulnerable young people. And we feel that the voices that we've been able to capture have been instrumental in raising their plight with key government agencies and with donors, and we're starting to see with the new displacements we're seeing in Ethiopia at the moment with the Tigray conflict, that there's greater awareness about why these young people's plight needs to be at the forefront as we are provide both emergency support and then longer-term aid and services.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 30:11

Fatuma says speaking to GAGE about her experiences has made her feel like she's making a difference.

Fatuma: Adolescent IDP in Ethiopia 30:27

Talking to GAGE has been really important. At least I've managed to tell people what challenges that IDP people in general and my family are facing. If GAGE can report these to the right people, it may help change the situation for us. The solution to the problem lies in the hands of the government. They need to let us buy our own houses so that we can improve where we live. And local authorities need to support us by providing a marketplace where we can sell things so that we can make a better living.

Martha Dixon Journalist 31:00

Protracted problems in Ethiopia mean there's been mass internal displacement for several years. And climate problems like flooding, fires and drought often result in added tensions and conflict.

Workneh Yadete: GAGE (Ethiopia) 31:13

Thank you Martha. My name is Workneh Yadete I am the GAGE Ethiopia research uptake coordinator and quantitative research lead.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 31:26

Workneh is based in Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia.

Workneh Yadete: GAGE (Ethiopia) 31:30

In recent years, conflict has been erupted everywhere in Ethiopia. And this conflict has a direct impact on the lives of girls and boys. Displacement is a new phenomenon in Ethiopia and a recent development. So it's shocking for many of the families to lead life in this way. So it is really important for us that unless we deal with this, it may finally lead to a major social crisis. The number of homeless people because of conflict has been increasing and reaching 1000s and sometimes it reached up to a million. So if researchers and policymakers and NGOs are working hard to support these people to return to normal life, then it may lead to major social crisis for example. Increasing of highly impoverished people, criminal activities may happen in areas where the number of IDPs (displaced people) are very high. And also with the increasing number of uneducated population, because, as I said, many of them lack access to education. So it may contribute again to an illiteracy situation in the country.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 33:06

GAGE has found that supporting adolescents in these situations, as well as recognizing their need to have a voice is key to building peace and sustainability.

Workneh Yadete: GAGE (Ethiopia) 33:17

It's your turn now we see that with the country is in the process of democratic democratisation. Young people's participation and social and political activities have been increasing. For, example, we observed that both in rural and urban areas, young people have been highly engaging in using social media. And they have been expressing their interests and their feelings, particularly using Facebook, and Telegram. They post it, they share it, they comment on it. And that is really a big a big shift in this country, which we hadn't observed three years ago. So if this continue in the future, I think we can see young people who can work hard and struggle to ensure their rights in all aspects of their life.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 34:41

GAGE's work looks at different situations boys and girls face as displaced people, and how needs change across age groups. Prerna Banati from UNICEF says this strategy is vital to support their work.

Prerna Banati: UNICEF 34:56

So, for us, age and gender is very, it's a very critical sort of intersection. It's the ways in which we think about how do we programme? It's to me very fundamental, because I think not only do we have to look at the evolving capacity of the child to understand how children evolve and what their capacities are, as they evolve. An 18 year old you can imagine, has a different set of capacities to a six year old. So we cannot and we should not and we wouldn't do it in our own families provide the same intervention, the same education for a six year old that we would do for an 18 year old. So no doubt our interventions, our programming need to be as responsive and sensitive to the fact that there will be children who will respond in different ways depending on context. So age is crucial, gender also crucial we know so much about the norms that are experienced the gender norms that are experienced during adolescence in particular, and how they have such an impact on girls realities, the how we think about age and gender together, and how we programme for them recognizing that, you know, we need age-sensitive, but also gender-responsive interventions, interventions that recognize goals and respond to goals needs in particular, but also help us to transform relationships between, between boys and girls between the wider social environment that tackle regressive gender norms, so important to the work that we do as UNICEF.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 36:38

In Jordan, highlighting the different needs of adolescence is vital, says GAGE's Jude Sajdi.

Jude Sajdi: GAGE (Jordan) 36:45

So here in Jordan, I think government service providers and anyone who, who are you know, any organisations who are implementing programmes really have to think from the perspective of the adolescent, right, so and take into the into consideration the differences and the different variables. So if I'm a disabled refugee, living in this, you know, Azraq Camp, you know, what are my restrictions? And how can I overcome them? If I'm a 14-year-old Palestinian refugee living in the Gaza Camp, what restrictions am I facing? And how can I be helped, you know, so it's not enough to just, you know, have a programme for all adolescents, all refugees and expect it to work, because there are so many different characteristics and so many different variables and restrictions on other lessons based on where they are, their age, their physical ability, their gender, and so on. So all of these little things have to be taken into consideration to ensure that we are helping all adolescents.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 38:01

So how does this research help us to help each and every refugee?

Dr Nicola Jones: Director of GAGE 38:06

We've found repeatedly that many refugees have never been asked to share their stories and insights *[Nicola Jones again]* and really value the opportunity to tell this story, demonstrate their agency and the contributions that they've often made to their refugee and also whose communities and hopefully eventually be better supported over time.

Martha Dixon: Journalist 38:35

You've been listening to Episode 1 of the GAGE podcast series, where we shine a light on the stories of adolescents who've been forced from their homes, and look at what's needed to turn their lives around. You can access much more information on all of GAGE's work in their new book, *Adolescents in Humanitarian Crisis*, written by GAGE researchers across East Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. It synthesizes the research to date about adolescent refugees, as well as those who've been internally displaced.

About GAGE

Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) is a nine-year longitudinal research programme generating evidence on what works to transform the lives of adolescent girls in the Global South. Visit www.gage.odi.org.uk for more information.

GENDER & ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE

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This document is an output of the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) programme which is funded by UK aid from the UK government. However, views expressed and information contained within do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies and are not endorsed by the UK government, which accepts no responsibility for such views or information or for any reliance placed on them.

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ISBN: 978-1-913610-63-0

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