Psychological harm caused by explosive weapons

Alma Taslidžan Al-Osta

Humanity & Inclusion
Jamilah (25) is amputee from Herat, Afghanistan. Went through extensive rehabilitation process. She is with her son and her 2 daughters.
© Véronique de Viguerie

Hussein (15), lost his leg during bombing, which killed half of his family.
©Philippe Poulpiquet
Explosions, followed by a constant fear
The first catalyst for forced displacements, for men and women alike, is bombing and shelling.

44% of all refugees surveyed had their own homes destroyed by bombing and shelling.

Data from HI report: “Everywhere the bombing followed us” Perspectives of Syrian women refugees in Lebanon
Aidi (8) suffers of severe psychological trauma due to the intense bombing and airstrikes which stoned her body and let her like paralyzed. She doesn’t move or speak anymore. HI team stimulate everyday through long and soft physiotherapy sessions.

© Camille Gillardeau
Exposure to physical abuse and violence in families.
Disaffection
Distrust
Disappointment
Increased social tensions
80% of people injured by explosive weapons expressed signs of high psychological distress, as a result of which 66% were unable to carry out essential daily activities because of their feelings of fear, anger, fatigue, disinterest and hopelessness.

Data from HI report: “Qasef” Perspectives of Syrian refugees in Jordan

© Benoit Almeras
Collecting body pieces, discovering disfigured remains and identifying mangled bodies is extremely distressing for relatives and first responders.
83% of respondents that suffered crisis bombing related injuries resulting in disabilities are men. A higher percentage of women (10% higher) referenced explosive violence causing injury to a family member or friend.

Data from HI report: “Everywhere the bombing followed us”
Perspectives of Syrian women refugees in Lebanon
“My children have grown up amid war. The sort of travels they have been through, full of misery and death, have nothing to do with what I experienced as a child. They have seen people die. They have not been able to go to school. They do not know peace and safety. Their fear makes your heart ache. At the end of the journey, our situation is still miserable.”

Ranim, 31 years old
“I remembered the bombing of the houses of people, including my house. ... I remembered the suffering and fear, and lack of guarantee over our lives in the midst of this crisis ... and my constant fear over my children's unknown future.”

Syrian woman
Thank you

a.alosta@hi.org

Humanity & Inclusion