

Publication

Understanding access to professional healthcare among asylum seekers facing gender-based violence: a qualitative study from a stakeholder perspective

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4604933

Author(s) Rodella Sapia, Mirjam D.; Wangmo, Tenzin; Dagron, Stéphanie; Elger, Bernice S.

Author(s) at UniBasel [Wangmo, Tenzin](#) ; [Elger, Bernice Simone](#) ;

Year 2020

Title Understanding access to professional healthcare among asylum seekers facing gender-based violence: a qualitative study from a stakeholder perspective

Journal BMC international health and human rights

Volume 20

Number 1

Pages / Article-Number 25

Keywords Access to healthcare; Gender-based violence; Legal framework; Women asylum seekers; women's rights

When it comes to gender-based violence (GBV), migrant women and girls represent the most vulnerable group. GBV can happen at any stage of migrants' flight and/or during the asylum process. It has severe consequences on their life and health. Victims therefore need timely access to healthcare. This study explores the context GBV victims face when they seek refuge in Switzerland.; Qualitative methodology was used where we conducted five semi-structured focus groups and three interviews. A total of sixteen stakeholders participated in the study. They were either involved in the asylum process or provided healthcare to asylum seekers. We analyzed the data using framework analysis.; Study participants noted lack of confidence of the GBV victims in the legal and in the healthcare systems as major barriers to disclosure of GBV. Since only GBV exerted before fleeing the home country gives the right to asylum, they pointed out that victims do not disclose GBV that took place after they left their home country. Language was identified as a barrier to disclosure of GBV as well as to healthcare access. Continuity of care at the moment of transfer from federal to cantonal (i.e. state) accommodations is another issue that was deemed critical. Study participants felt that health professionals must be trained to identify GBV victims. The first-contact caregiver available to these victims was deemed as the most competent professional that could act as a "GBV coordinator".; In Switzerland, access to healthcare is guaranteed to all asylum seekers on a legal and structural level. Yet, health seeking by GBV survivors is hindered by factors such as lack of confidence in the legal system, trust in health providers, and continuity of care during the asylum process. Building trust in legal institutions, health structures, and professionals should be enhanced to facilitate disclosure and to strengthen resilience. This includes a healthcare system with competent professionals, support with language and cultural needs, as well as seamless continuity of care beyond cantonal borders.

Publisher BioMed Central

ISSN/ISBN 1472-698X

URL <https://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/unige:145262>

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/78816/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1186/s12914-020-00244-w

PubMed ID <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32957996>

ISI-Number WOS:000574262700001

Document type (ISI) Journal Article