

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Associated Factors Among Internally Displaced People in South Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Background: Displaced people experience different traumatic events. This can have serious and long-lasting consequences in terms of physical and mental health outcome. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is the most frequent mental disorder following traumatic exposure. In 2018 Ethiopia saw the highest number of internal displacement, despite this, less attention has been given to mental health among internally displaced people in the country. This study aims to determine the estimated prevalence and associated factors of PTSD among internally displaced people in the Gede'o zone, south Ethiopia.

Participants and Methods: A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted between 1 and 30, May 2019 among 636 participants, who were selected using a simple random sampling technique. PTSD was measured by the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5). The association between outcome and independent variables was identified by bi-variable and multivariate logistic regression. Finally, variables with P-value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant at 95% CI.

Results: A total of 625 participants were interviewed with a response rate of 98.3%. The estimated prevalence of PTSD was 58.4% with 95% CI 55 to 61.9. In the multivariate logistic regression, being female (AOR=2.4, 95% CI 1.6 to 3.4), depression (AOR=2.6, 95% CI 1.2 to 3.9), displaced more than once (AOR=3.7, 95% CI 2.4 to 5.8), destruction of personal property (AOR=1.6, 95% CI 1.04 to 2.44), witness the murder of family (AOR=2, 95% CI 1.2, 3.9), and cumulative trauma (AOR=4, 95% CI 1.7 to 9.6) were significantly associated factors.

Conclusion: In the current study, the estimated prevalence of PTSD was high. Ministry of health should plan routine screening and management of PTSD, depression and linking with available mental health service is recommended.

Keywords: post-traumatic stress disorder; PTSD, internal, displacement, Ethiopia

Introduction

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) are groups who have been forced to leave their homes, but remain within the borders of their own country.¹ According to a new report from a 2018 Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) and Norwegian refugee council (NRC), globally a total of 30.6 million people were internally displaced due to conflict and disaster.² Most of them live in low-income countries which are sometimes affected by internal conflict and violence.³ In 2016, the total number of displaced people due to conflict in Africa was almost 12.6 million.⁴

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Ethiopia saw the highest number of internal displacements in the first half of 2018. According to the IDMC report, 1.4 million people experienced internal displacement.² In Gede'o zone (Southern Nation Nationality Region) and west Guji (Oromo region) more than a million people were displaced due to inter-communal conflict.² Generally people with displacement were exposed to different kinds of trauma, violence, and injuries, making them more vulnerable for psychological disorders, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).⁵

PTSD is one of the psychological disorders which can be experienced following exposure to a traumatic or stressful event. It is characterized by symptoms of intrusion, avoidance, changes in mood and cognition, and hyperarousal, all of which can last for more than a month after the traumatic event.^{6–8} PTSD can occur due to witnessing and being exposed to terrible events such as murder, threats, kidnap, loss of relatives or friends, loss of house, and starvation.⁵

Several systematic reviews indicated that IDP who stay within their own country experience worse mental health outcomes than refugees.^{9,10} PTSD symptoms have been described as one of the most prevalent mental health conditions in IDP.¹¹ In post-conflict and conflict-ridden societies, the prevalence rates in the general population can be much higher.¹²

In a study looking at the lifetime prevalence of PTSD, mood, and anxiety disorders in four post-conflict societies the researchers reported a PTSD prevalence ranging from 15.8% to 37.4%.¹³ Statistical estimates showed that PTSD is between 1% and 5% in a range of general population studies^{14,15} and between 3% and 58% for high-risk groups such as displaced people.^{16,17} The global economic burden of stress-related mental illness is expected to rise in the coming decade. The World Health Organization's (WHO) global disease of burden survey estimates that mental illness, including stress-related disorders, will be the second leading cause of disability by the year 2020.¹⁸ A systematic review conducted in 40 countries showed that the prevalence of PTSD among IDP was 30.6%. Another systematic review undertaken revealed that PTSD among IDP ranges 3% to 88%.^{19,20}

Studies undertaken in Africa show that PTSD can still be a public health concern several years after the civil conflict.^{21–23} In East Africa, like Uganda, the prevalence of PTSD ranges from 11.8% to 54%.^{24–29} The prevalence

of PTSD among IDP ranges from 3.6% to 88% in different studies from different countries.^{30–35}

Mental illness, and specifically PTSD, is documented as a key public health issue of a conflict-affected population; war and armed conflicts contribute to poverty, lack of employment, community violence, insecure living circumstances, and changes in the social dynamic. This makes PTSD highly associated with a lower quality of life, even after the end of the actual hostilities in a post-disaster setting.^{34,35} Factors that contribute to the development of PTSD have been classified into four groups: pre-existing factors like family history of mental illness and substance abuse history, the traumatic event itself, the level of exposure, and post-trauma factors such as social support.^{36–38}

Most psychiatric findings are limited to other African countries, such as Nigeria or Uganda, where studies have shown that exposure to psycho-trauma among IDP leads to PTSD.^{32,39,40} Even though the prevalence of PTSD is high among IDP, as far as we know there is no specific published study on Ethiopia.

Materials and Methods

Study Design, Period and Setting

A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted from 1 to 30 April 2019. The study was conducted in Gede'o zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia. The assessment site was affected by internal displacement due to inter-communal violence along the borders of the Gede'o (SNNPR) and West Guji (Oromo region) zones, which led to large-scale displacement, loss of life, and damage to property. IDP lived in temporary camps at different sites.

Study Participants and Sampling Procedure

A simple random sampling technique was used to select 636 participants. Since IDP were included from three sites (Gedeb, Yirgacheffe, and Dilla), to assure representativeness of the sample, proportional allocation was done to the number of IDPs located in each site. The lists of persons were obtained from the leaders of each site, and participants were selected using a computer-generated random method. For an eligible participant who was not found at their assigned camp, the interviewers revisited the area at another time during the data collection period. The study included all displaced people residing in the Gede'o zone

who were aged 15 years and above and were living in collective sites. About 88% were under 45 years of age and those who were severely ill or had difficulty communicating were excluded from the study.

Sample Size Determination

We determined the sample size by using a single population proportion formula with the assumptions of 36% prevalence of PTSD from studies conducted in South Sudan,⁴¹ $0.36 = P$, $1.96 = Z$ (standard normal distribution), 95% CI, margin of error 0.04 and after using 10% non-response rate total sample size was 636.

Data Collection Instruments

Data was collected using interviewer administered structured and pretested questionnaires. It was collected by six BSc nurses and regularly supervised by two psychiatry professionals. The questionnaire was designed in English and translated to Amharic and back to English to maintain consistency. Data collectors were trained on how to interview participants and explain unclear questions and the purpose of the study.

PTSD was measured using the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5). The PCL-5 is standardized instrument and is a self-report rating scale for assessing the 20 DSM-5 symptoms of PTSD.⁴³ A total score was computed by adding the 20 items, so that possible scores range from 0 to 80 with a 5-point Likert scale (0 = Not at all, 1 = A little bit, 2 = moderately, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = extremely) with a cut off point of ≥ 33 .⁴³ Validity and reliability of the PCL-5 have been tested and proven on displaced people and refugees in a number of countries, for example, in Iraq (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.85$),⁴⁴ and Zimbabwe (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.92$).⁴⁵

Depression was measured using the Hopkins' Symptom Checklist-25 (HSCL-25) in which scores for symptom criteria of depression was measured using the 15 depression items from the HSCL-25.⁴⁶ This also had a 4-point severity scale 1 = Not at all, 2 = A little, 3 = Quite a bit, and 4 = Extremely. Mean depression scores ≥ 1.75 were considered significant for meeting symptom criteria of depression based upon the instrument standards.⁴⁶ The reliability and validity of the HSCL-25 have been tested and proven for use with displaced persons in a number of countries.⁴⁷

Social support was measured according to the Oslo-3 social support scale which ranges from 3 to 14, those respondents who score between 3 and 8 are considered to

have poor social support, a score of 9–11 is considered as having moderate social support, and a score of 12–14 is considered as having strong social support.⁴⁸ Other stressful life events are measured by the presence of one or more item from the list of stressful life event questionnaires over an entire life.⁴⁹ Socio-demographic factors, substance use history, clinical factors, trauma- and displacement-related factors were used on “yes/no” response questionnaires and were operationalized according to different literature.

Statistical Analysis

Data was entered into the computer using EPI Data version 4.2 and exported to statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 24 for analysis. Descriptive data was summarized using tables. Binary logistic regression was used to identify factors associated with outcome variable. Variables with a P value of less than 0.2 in bivariate regression were included for multivariate logistic regression. Finally, P-value ≤ 0.05 in multivariate logistic regression was considered as statistically significant and the strength of associations was determined using adjusted odds ratio (AOR) at 95% CI.

Ethical Approval and Consent to Participation

All procedures undertaken during data collection were in accordance with the ethical review board of the University of Gondar, Amanuel mental specialized hospital, with the ethical approval number AM/146/4/106 and the Helsinki Declaration. The study was approved by the ethical review board of the University of Gondar and Amanuel mental specialized hospital. The participants were informed about the aim of the study and no identification or names were recorded so as to maintain confidentiality. The study participants were informed of their right to refuse or stop participating at any time during the interview. Finally, data were collected after obtaining written informed consent from the participants. For participants who were found to have PTSD during the study, further assessment of their condition was carried out at a nearby psychiatric clinic.

Results

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

A total of 625 participants were included in the study with a response rate of 98.3%. The mean age (\pm SD) of the respondents was 32.98 (± 11.22) years, with age ranging

from 18 to 79 years. Among the respondents 194 (31.04%) were in the age range of 25–34 years, 328 (52.48%) were male, 345 (55.2%) were married and 292 (46.7%) were attended primary school. Regarding occupation, about 252 (40.3%) were farmers, while 176 (28.2%) were merchants (Table 1).

Clinical, Psychosocial, Substance and Displacement-Related Factors of Respondents

With regard to the the clinical characteristics of the respondents, more than half of the participants (333; 53.3%) had depression, 31 (4.96%) had a family history of mental illness, 36 (5.76%) were ever treated for mental illness and 168 (26.9%) had co-morbid medical illness. Of the total study participants, more than half of the participants (364; 58.2%)

had never been previously displaced and 261 (41.76%) had been displaced more than once. About three-quarters of the respondents (480; 76.8%) spent between 9 and 12 months in displacement areas. Regarding the psychosocial characteristics of respondents, more than half of the participants with PTSD (336; 53.76%) had poor social support and most (550; 88%) of the respondents had experienced other stressful life events. With respect to substance use, more than one-third of respondents (194; 31.04%) were lifetime alcohol users, and 133 (21.28%) were current alcohol users (Table 2).

Trauma-Related Factors

Regarding individual trauma type, the most frequent type of trauma experienced by the IDP was the destruction of personal property (422; 67.52%) and a lack of food and water (382; 61.12%). More than half (348; 55.68%) had experienced or witnessed the murder of family or friends. With regard to cumulative trauma events, nearly half (308; 49.28%) of respondents had experienced between 0 and 3 traumatic events and around half (51.8%) of respondents had experienced ≥ 4 of the 16 traumatic events covered by questionnaire. Generally males reported 328 (52.48%) cumulative trauma events and female reported 297 (47.52%). In addition, 157 (25.12%) of the participants had experienced physical abuse in childhood (Table 3).

Prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Among Internally Displaced People

In this study, the estimated prevalence of PTSD was 58.4% with a 95% CI of 55%–61.9%. The estimated prevalence rate was higher among females (60.8%) compared to males (39.2%).

Independent Variables Associated with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

[Supplementary Table 1](#) shows that variables with a P-value of less than 0.2 in bivariate regression were included for multivariable logistic regression. In the multivariate logistic regression being female, those displaced more than once, depression, witnessing the murder of a family member/friend, destruction of personal property, and cumulative trauma were statistically significant with PTSD at p -value <0.05 .

Females were 2.35 times more likely to develop PTSD than males (AOR=2.35, 95% CI 1.61 to 3.44). Those who had experienced the destruction of personal property were 1.58 times more likely to develop PTSD than those who

Table 1 Distribution of Socio-Demographic Factors Among Internally Displaced Peoples in Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=625)

Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age		
15–25	176	28.16
26–35	194	31.04
36–45	178	28.48
46–55	49	7.84
>55	28	4.48
Sex		
Male	328	52.5
Female	297	47.5
Marital status		
Married	345	55.2
Single	152	24.3
Divorced	39	6.24
Separated	28	4.48
Widow/er	61	9.76
Education status		
No formal education	138	22.1
Primary	296	47.4
Secondary	116	18.56
Preparatory	61	9.76
College and above	14	2.24
Occupation		
Farmer	252	40.3
Merchant	178	28.48
Employed (gov't and private)	55	8.8
Student	114	18.2
Others*	26	4.2

Note: Others*, House wife, daily laborer and jobless.

Table 2 Description of Clinical-, Psychosocial-, Substance- and Displacement-Related Factors of Respondents Among Internally Displaced People in Southern Ethiopia, 2019 (n=625)

Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
Ever treated for mental illness		
Yes	29	4.64
No	596	95.36
Family member treated for mental illness		
Yes	36	5.76
No	589	94.24
Depression		
Yes	333	53.28
No	292	46.72
Co-morbid medical or surgical illness		
Yes	168	26.88
No	457	73.12
Prior displacement characteristics		
Never displaced	364	58.24
Displaced as IDPs	253	40.48
Displaced as refugee	6	0.96
Displaced	2	0.32
Duration since displacement		
9–12 month	480	76.8
>12 month	145	23.2
Frequency of displacement		
1 time	364	58.24
>1 time	261	41.76
Social support		
Poor	336	53.8
Moderate	186	29.8
Strong	103	16.5
Life time use of alcohol		
Yes	194	31
No	431	69
Life time use of chat		
Yes	186	29.8
No	439	70.2
Life time use of tobacco		
Yes	78	12.5
No	547	87.5
Current use of alcohol		
Yes	133	21.3
No	492	78.7
Current use of chat		
Yes	115	18.4
No	510	81.6

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
Current use of tobacco		
Yes	21	3.4
No	604	96.6

had not experienced the destruction of personal property (AOR=1.58, 95% CI 1.04 to 2.44). The odds of developing PTSD among participants who had witnessed or experienced the murder of family or friends were two times higher than those who had not witnessed or experienced this event (AOR=2.1, 95% CI 1.08 to 4.08).

The odds of developing PTSD among those with depression were 2.6 times higher as compared to those without depression (AOR=2.6, 95% CI 1.18 to 3.78). Participants who had been displaced more than once were 3.69 times more likely to develop PTSD than respondents who had never been displaced (AOR=3.69, 95% CI 2.35 to 5.82). Respondents who had experienced 4 or more of the 16 trauma events included in the questionnaire were more likely to have PTSD (1.9 times more likely for 4–7 traumatic events, 2.9 times more likely for 8–11 traumatic events, and 4 times more likely for 12 or more traumatic events) than participants who had experienced 0–3 traumatic events of the 16 trauma events (AOR=1.9, 95% CI 1.1 to 3.4), (AOR=2.9, 95% CI 2.3 to 4.1), (AOR=4.1, 95% CI 1.7 to 9.7) (Table 4).

Discussion

The findings from the current study revealed that the estimated prevalence of PTSD was 58.4% with 95% CI 55 to 61.9) among IDP. The prevalence of this study was in line with the study carried out in Sri Lanka (56%).⁵⁰

On the other hand, the finding of the current study was lower than study done in Medellin Colombia (88%),³³ and North Uganda (74%).⁵¹ The discrepancy might be due to exposure to different trauma types, in which being abducted was the most frequently reported type in Colombia,⁴⁷ and it might be more stressful than destruction of personal property, which was most frequently reported in the current study.⁵¹ Variation in study type and sampling technique might be another difference in the qualitative study and convenience sampling technique used in Colombia,³³ and its result might be more biased

Table 3 Description of Trauma-Related Factors Among Internally Displaced People in Southern Ethiopia 2019 (n=625)

Traumatic Event Experienced by IDP	Frequency			Percent (%)
Types of traumatic events				
Destruction of personal property	422			67.52
Lack of housing or shelter in the camp	230			36.8
Lack of food or water in the camp	382			61.12
Witnessing murder of family member/friend	348			55.68
Ill health without medical care	316			50.56
Forced isolation from other people	342			54.72
Tortured or beaten	292			46.72
Serious injury	290			46.4
Witnessing murder of stranger	250			40
Made to accept ideas against will	198			31.68
Forced separation from family	190			30.4
Unnatural death of family or friends	178			28.48
Imprisonment against your will	166			26.56
Being in a war fighting situation	162			25.92
Being abducted or kidnapped	114			18.24
Rape or sexual abuse	48			7.68
Childhood physical abuse/neglected				
Yes	157			25.1
No	468			74.9
Exposure to cumulative trauma events	Male	Female	Total	
0–3 trauma events	190	118	308	49.28
4–7 trauma events	25	33	58	9.28
8–11 trauma events	108	111	219	35.04
12–16 trauma events	5	35	40	6.4
Total	328	297	625	100

and subjective than probability sampling, which was used in current study. The difference in the instrument might be another reason for this variation, PTSD was assessed by using a culturally-validated 24-item PTSD-check list in Colombia,³³ PCL-C for DSM-IV in Nigeria, but PCL-5 with LEC-5 and extended criteria A was used in the current study.⁴⁹ It might be also due to a difference in sample size and study setting in which IDPs living in a camp and in the host community was included and a larger sample size was used in northern Uganda,⁵¹ but in this study participants living in the host community were excluded.

Contrarily, the estimated prevalence of the current study was higher than the studies carried out in Nigeria (42%),³² Darfur (54%),³⁶ Sri Lanka (2.3%),²⁹ Georgia (23.3%),⁵² Iraq (20.8%),⁵³ Central Sudan (12.3%),³¹ and Sindh (9%).⁵⁴ The possible explanation for the observed differences could be the difference in tools, in which Nigeria and Iraq's studies used the Harvard trauma questionnaire (HTQ),^{32,52} structured interview using DSM-IV-

TR was used in Sindh,⁵⁴ and the k-section of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) was used in Sri Lanka,²⁹ but the current study used PCL-5 with LEC-5 and extended criteria A which was modified with a better internal consistent to measure PTSD.⁴⁹ An other reason might be duration of displacement; the study in Sri Lanka was conducted after 20 years of forced displacement,²⁹ after 10 years in Georgia,⁵² after 2 years in Nigeria,³² but the current study was conducted less than 2 years after forced displacement.² Hence, the increased duration of displacement was more likely to reduce the magnitude due to recall bias. Variations in type of exposure to trauma, sampling techniques and socio-cultural factors might be another reason.^{29,36,53}

Females were 2.4 times more likely to have PTSD compared to males. This may be because females have a higher risk of developing PTSD due to a lower threshold from exposure to psycho-trauma compared to males.³³ It might be also due to a direct psychological consequence of rape or sexual abuse, the violent loss of partner, children and of

Table 4 Bi-Variable and Multivariable Binary Logistic Regression Analysis Showing an Association Between Factors and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Among Internally Displaced People in Southern Ethiopia 2019 (n=625)

Explanatory Variables	PTSD		COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)
	Yes	No		
Sex				
Female	223	75	3.87 (2.84, 5.37)	2.35 (1.61, 3.44)***
Male	142	185	1	1
Co-morbid medical illness				
Yes	61	31	1.47 (0.95, 2.25)	1.26 (0.76, 2.08)
No	305	228	1	1
Frequency of displacement				
>one time	211	51	5.55 (3.97, 7.89)	3.69 (2.35, 5.82)**
Once	155	208	1	1
Depression				
Yes	228	105	2.46 (1.82, 3.34)	2.6 (1.79, 3.78)***
No	137	155	1	1
Destruction of personal property				
Yes	266	158	1.67 (1.26, 2.37)	1.58 (1.04, 2.44)*
No	101	100	1	1
Lack of food and water				
Yes	246	136	1.85 (1.37, 2.51)	1.17(0.13, 1.37)
No	120	123	1	1
Ill without medical care				
Yes	202	114	1.59 (1.18, 2.14)	1.31 (0.56, 3.04)
No	163	146	1	1
Witnessing murder of family/friends				
Yes	231	117	2.08 (1.54, 2.81)	2.1 (1.08, 4.08)**
No	135	142	1	1
Tortured or beaten				
Yes	189	104	1.61 (1.20, 2.18)	1.52 (0.23, 1.79)
No	176	156	1	1
Cumulative trauma				
4–7	39	21	2.3 (1.32, 3.99)	1.9 (1.1, 3.4)**
8–11	156	63	3.07 (2.18, 4.33)	2.9 (2, 4.1)***
12–16	33	6	6.82 (3.01, 15.85)	4.1 (1.7, 9.7)***
0–3	137	170	1	1

Notes: *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001; chi-square, 5; df, 8; HosmerLemeshow test, 0.69.

Abbreviations: COR, crude odds ratio; AOR, adjusted odds ratio; n, sample size.

becoming single parent or widow.^{36,51} In fact the exposure to traumatic events had high impact among females when compared with males.^{36,42} Another reason could be that females tend to show a more emotional and ruminative response to stress.^{50,55} This could increase the risk of developing PTSD.

Another factor strongly associated with PTSD was depression; participants with depression were 2.6 times more likely to have PTSD when compared to respondents without depression. This could be because participants

with depression are more likely to have suffered traumatic experiences than respondents without depression,⁵⁵ which in turn increases the likelihood of PTSD development. PTSD was more common among depressed patients than those without depression. Having previous depression and another psychological disorders might be another reason for the increased risk of developing PTSD.^{32,50}

Regarding frequency of displacement, participants who were displaced more than once were 3.7 times more likely

to have PTSD than respondents who were only displaced once. This might be because respondents with repeated displacement were more likely to be exposed to trauma and violence than participants only displaced once, hence repeated exposure to displacement-related trauma might increase the risk of developing PTSD.^{56,57}

In addition, the destruction of personal property was significantly associated with PTSD in this study. Those who had experienced this event were 1.58 times more likely to have PTSD than those who had not experienced it. This might be because participants feel that those type of losses will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace, resulting in increased psychological distress.³² Also, following traumatic events like destruction of personal property, acute stress is a typical response, if this problem persists it may increase the risk of developing PTSD.³²

Participants who had witnessed or experienced the murder of family or friends were twice as likely to have PTSD than those who had not experienced this event. This could be because the effect of losing a loved one may resemble the experiences of other types trauma victims, including reminders of the event, negative intrusive thoughts like thoughts of revenge and it may have a significant impact on emotional well-being.^{32,58} Those who have witnessed the violent death of a family member might be at an increased risk of developing PTSD.^{59,60}

Respondents who had experienced 4 or more of the 16 trauma events included in the questionnaire were more likely to have PTSD (1.9 times more likely for 4–7 traumatic events, 2.9 times more likely for 8–11 traumatic events and 4 times more likely for 12 or more traumatic events) than participants who had experienced 0–3 traumatic events of the 16 trauma events. This could be because when an individual is exposed to several traumatic events they have a greater negative influence on mental health than a single, discrete trauma.^{56,57,61} Greater exposure to multiple types of traumatic events may predict greater PTSD severity.^{51,62}

Conclusion

A high rate of PTSD was found among internally displaced people. Depression, sex, frequency of displacement, witnessing the murder of family or friends, destruction of personal property, and cumulative trauma were found to be significant predictors of PTSD. Therefore, the Ministry of Health should do on-site screening and provide treatment for all IDPs suffering from for

PTSD and depression, establishing a referral system for mental health problems is recommended.

Strength and Limitation of the Study

The study has several strengths. First, it included important variables which were not included in previous studies. Second, it used updated standardized instrument for measuring PTSD. Third, validated and standardized tools were used to assess independent variables such as stressful life events and depression. Whereas, including participants or IDPs from a single place (zone), excluding IDPs hosted by relatives or friends or living in unregistered camps, mean there was an inability to consistently match the gender of interviewers and respondents to minimize under reporting of certain sensitive traumatic events, like rape or sexual abuse, and the majority of the study participants were adults; these this could be considered as some of the limitations of the study.

Data Sharing Statement

The data sets used and analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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