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How do we understand transactional sex in humanitarian contexts?

Transactional sex is the exchange of sex for cash, goods, services, commodities or privileges. It is an important, yet underacknowledged, livelihood strategy for people in situations of conflict, natural disaster, mass violations of human rights and other humanitarian crises. Transactional sex can help people survive or improve their situation but is also a precarious and risky strategy rooted in unequal power relations.

ListenH is a four-year project hosted by the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). It aims to gain a better understanding of the reality of transactional sex in humanitarian contexts and the relationship between people involved in it and humanitarian service providers. The project takes a global perspective, but has a particular focus on Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan.

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