Module 1. Session 1. Powerwalk characters.

Choose 6 to 10 characters based on the context and on the number of participants. Print the description of each character three to four times based on the expected number of participants in each group.



Khadija is a single mother with eight children. She recently fled fighting between al-Shabab jihadists and Somali government forces. She was directed by friends to an informal makeshift settlement where she was allocated a space by the manager of settlement on the condition that once she registered with the UN's World Food Programme she would part with a percentage of her ration. Right after the first distribution the gatekeepers took half of what she was given although she really needs food for her and her children. But she did not say anything as she saw her neighbor being forcibly evicted together with his six children at gunpoint for refusing to share his ration.



Ibrahim is 50, a father of 20 children (12 boys and 8 girls) with two wives. They reside in an IDP camp in a city. He has a small farm in the IDP center where he produces maize and relies on rainfall for water. During the dry season, he stays at home since he does not have a permanent job. He depends on humanitarian agencies for support as well as his farm during the rainy season. During the rainy season, some children of the family help their family in the farm instead of going to school.



Abdullahi is married and the father of 9 children - 1 girl and 8 boys. They live in an IDP site. He is employed as a laborer doing daily chores for farmers in the host community who own the land and the machines. He is not paid in terms of money but the harvest is divided between him and the farmer during crop harvesting. Therefore, his allowance depends on the farm production. The security issues in the settlement has a negative impact on the business where his wife sells some of his share of the production, especially when night comes. Theft is rampant in the settlement.



Mariama is 65-year-old. She had lived in a camp for IDPs since 2016 when she and her family fled war in a neighbouring province. She shared a two-room house with her daughter and six grandchildren aged between 4 and 12 years. Recently a flood hit the camp and the family lost everything: from house to food, clothes and other belongings. She and her family received an emergency distribution. They have been living under plastic sheeting for long months. She is afraid that someone will tear or rip the plastic, making households vulnerable to theft or intrusion as it happened to her neighbor. Her grandchildren are not all going to school because they can't afford to send them and because they don't understand the language spoken there. They often resort to begging.



Fadumo, a mother of 4 school age children, was displaced by drought and has been living in a settlement for 3 years. There are no job opportunities. And since the drought she has been buying everything on credit, many of the vendors have been quick to let her buy food at an inflated price. She was desperate so she accepted. She is dependent on manual labour and is out all day as a cleaner. It is hard work and very poorly paid. She is worried about her young children who are not well taken care of during the day. The kids are going to school, but the uniforms and other school are too expensive, and they feel segregated. She does not manage to feed them three times a day.



Zahra a 40-year-old mother of five has been forcefully evicted three times in one year. She now lives in a stranded camp. The family has no plastic sheets to construct a makeshift house. It is raining and they do not have blankets to keep themselves warm. She used to make a living by washing clothes for people in the city, but since the corona disease started, people are afraid; they do not allow IDPs to enter their homes. Now she has to borrow money to even buy water and food. She tried to find a job but there is a lot of mistrust among people. To be employed you must be known or have a guarantor that can stand for you in case of a problem.



Amina, 60 years old, has been living in an impoverished makeshift hut in a spontaneous settlement since her return from Dadaab, Kenya, 18 months ago. The Covid 19 pandemic spread anxiety in the camp where residents are told to wash their hands and maintain good hygiene whereas water points, soap and anti-bacterial gel are out of reach. Her lack of financial resources prevents her from seeking healthcare and buying protection, such as face masks or alcohol-based hand rub. She spends much of her time praying that the virus does not reach her camp. Getting clean water to wash hands is even itself a struggle; 20 litres of clean water is sold at around half a US dollar, and people like her, who do not have formal jobs or a good source of earnings, do not have the luxury to buy water and wash hands, so she often cut back on its usage.



Bashire lives with his family of five children next to an IDP settlement. He recently found a rather stable job in construction work thanks to a friend who recommended him, and his wife sells food in a shop attached to their house. Her business is growing. Their children are going to school in the neighborhood. Bashire and his wife recently spent money in security items such as lighting, gate and locks as they perceive new security threats with the IDP settlement growing in size. Likewise, Bashire complains about outbreak of diseases in the neighboring IDP camp and stretched capacities of health facilities that are often overcrowded.



Hassan is an Ethiopian 16 years old boy. His mother died and his brothers left the house. His father began to hit him regularly. It did not help that the new wife he married did not love him. He decided to run away from his home, but I did not know where to go. One day, he talked to people living in his village who told him they were traveling to Bossaso because they wanted to cross to Yemen, a place where they would be richer. One week after, his father beat him again and he took the road to Bossaso. Once there, he found no one he knew but met other boys his age. Now they stay together because it makes them feel safer. During the day he works on the market to make money so that he can buy food. During the night all of them sleep in a ruined building, into open air, because they cannot afford to sleep inside the small café nearby. Thy have to pay if they want to use latrines. I He does not really know what he is going to do next, as has no money to cross to Yemen.



Abdirahim is a 9 years old boy. His family was displaced by drought. They would like to return to their village but it is not possible because of climate change. Abdirahim is living with his father and three siblings in an IDP informal settlement. One week ago, his hut, all his belongings, including two schoolbooks that was given to him by an NGO as well as the school where he used to go to were destroyed in front of his eyes by armed men and bulldozers. They had to leave and took refuge in the classroom of another IDP settlement. Yesterday they were told that they could not stay there and last night they slept outside, next to the IDP camp. His father is out all day trying to find a job and he his wandering on his own in the city, begging to help his father. He would like to return to school to become an architect.



Mohamed is the owner of a land where an IDP settlement was spontaneously erected 12 years ago. He and his extended family work as “gatekeeper” in the IDP center and earn money from the services they provide to the IDPs on a daily basis, either through diverting aid before it reaches them or by charging beneficiaries directly for the services provided. They also make sure that the host community, which they belong to, have good relationship with the IDPs and benefit from the presence of the IDPs.
