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Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change

University of Minnesota

Development-Induced Displacement and Women and Children's Well-Being: Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon

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An estimated 20 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced each year to make way for development projects including hydropower dams, highways, and urban infrastructure, with potentially hazardous implications for their health and wellbeing. While research suggests that development-induced displacement may be linked with poor health, the effects on those most vulnerable—women and children—remain poorly understood. This new project focuses on displacement due to the Belo Monte Dam, which was recently completed in the Brazilian Amazon and is the fourth largest hydropower dam in the world. Through in-depth interviews with displaced and non-displaced mothers and daughters, we seek to understand how women and children experienced and responded to displacement, uncover who is most vulnerable, and explore the mechanisms underlying the observed relationships between displacement, health, and well-being. In this talk, I will provide an overview of the project and data collection process, as well as some preliminary findings.