

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Issue: Solutions for forcibly displaced people in war zones
Student Officers: Ege Seyithanoğlu & Erkin Diker

I - Introduction

Since the beginning of history, people being displaced as a result of conflict has been a concern for humankind. As an outcome of conflict, civilians of the affected zone have been displaced to another zone. While this was on a rather smaller scale in the past, it can be observed that as time has passed the seriousness of the issue has also massively increased. As wars threatening the life of human beings has become frequent, displacement of people has become frequent as well, and actually more frequent than the wars itself. For example, if we look at the Second World War, the uprising of Nazi Germany and its extremely harsh actions caused many Jewish people to be displaced. However, this serious issue does not occur only during war. When taking this issue into account, it must never be forgotten that this can also potentially happen at a time during the preparation of a conflict or perhaps the aftermath of one.

As much as the forcible displacement of people in war zones is definitely a humanitarian crisis, it can be said that it also plays a critical role in determining a country's internal situation. Such a **mass exodus** can result in weakening a country's economy. It can be responsible for the shutdown of many institutions and result in massive job losses. The seriousness of this issue can be seen in mainly affected regions such as MENA (Middle East and North Africa) and Sub-Saharan Africa, nevertheless, the matter also doesn't stay limited to a specific area and is turning out to be a widespread issue worldwide. The United Nations and its sub-commission UNHCR prioritizes the security and well-being of every human being thus, this is why this agenda item holds such an important place in our world which must be tackled once and for all.

II - Involved Countries and Organizations

Syria

Syria has arguably been the most relevant country in respect to the topic as of late. This is because of the fact that it has recently been engaged with conflict, the

Syrian Civil War. This war between the Syrian government, Syrian opposition and ISIS has had major impacts to the country causing the displacement of over 12 million people (**internally and externally**), most of which have migrated to countries such as Turkey, Jordan, etc.

However, while migrating Syrian refugees have also faced many difficulties with one of them being ISIS's terrorizing actions. Also, while trying to migrate, the refugees have been misled by human traffickers and have died due to insecure ways of travel (via boats in the Mediterranean Sea). This marks that while the displacement of people is a huge issue in our world currently, it can also lead to many casualties. Furthermore, most of the refugees, especially those in Europe, currently face discrimination and are mostly unemployed and poor both in health and money. Cultural and religion-wise differences and bias towards refugees mainly cause these problems.

Internally displaced people on the other hand, currently face as many problems with the war also enraging between all active sides. While people's homes are destroyed they are left hopeless without any money or resource to support them. Besides this, it must also not be ignored that the destruction of many residential zones and displacement of people also creates a food and water crisis. This makes it extremely hard for the community to have a convenient life standard.

South Sudan

South Sudan's recent independence from Sudan in 2011 ignited the continuation of another civil war in the country. As the newest member of the UN, since it separated itself from Sudan South, Sudan has been riddled with conflicts. The fight that broke out between the government and the opposition sparked a conflict in which also Uganda has also joined in, siding with the government. This has also caused the UN to interfere with their peacekeeping troops establishing the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

This conflict has caused the displacement of nearly 4 million people, half of which are **internally displaced**. More than half of them have migrated to neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Along with the development in Sub-Saharan Africa and the inadequacy of resources, this conflict again plays a major role in the community's suffering. Along with being displaced, the issue concerning South Sudan also involves water insufficiency and many disease outbreaks.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been in conflict for a very long time now, as they even struggled for stability back in the 20th century as well. However, since the most recent war in

Afghanistan broke out in 2001, they have been engaged with conflict along with the US against Al-Qaeda and Taliban forces. This has created a chaotic environment in the country if this is to put it right, as Afghani people currently suffer from many important issues.

The people have many problems limiting their own rights such as freedom of speech, education and privacy. Nonetheless, the main problem that is also one of the sources of other current issues is definitely the forced displacement of people. As war is still going on in some areas of Afghanistan, massive amounts of people have been displaced with this number extending over millions. This is undoubtedly an extremely significant issue in our world and countries have summoned military support in the area, but the course of events clearly show that different types of action must be taken in order to fully tackle the matter at hand.

Colombia

While many nations suffer from active conflict in the displacement of their citizens, it can be said that Colombia's situation is slightly different in respect to this matter. While Colombia has been engaged with the conflict against FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) since 1964, this hasn't been the only significant issue responsible for resulting in many displaced Colombians. Another major issue that Colombia has been struggling in the past and is still struggling daily is widespread landmine traps. This may not be direct conflict however, it can definitely be considered as some sort of a passive conflict as landmines set up years ago are still causing casualties and displacing many. With displaced people numbering up to 8 million, the issue in Colombia is one not to be ignored plus the fact that it is also connected to other continuing problems in the world.

UNHCR

Since the establishment of it in 1950, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' has had one common purpose: To guide refugees into a secure environment in case of a problem and ensure the working of this at every time. However, it can be said that UNHCR has been more active recently, as with the beginning of the 21st century forcibly displaced people in conflict zones have gone rocket high compared to past years. In order to tackle this problem as efficiently as possible, the UNHCR has been active in relevant areas and has worked in cooperation with the relevant states. **Now, as a UNHCR delegate, you should work together as a committee in order to come up with an efficient solution for this issue!**

III - Focused Overview of the Issue

1) Displacement before conflict

It is often thought that the displacement of people due to conflict occurs during the conflict. However, it must not be ignored that a large number of people being displaced is also because of the fear of a war happening. Before a conflict has taken place, it has always somehow shown an indicator in history. This indicator has usually been a long build-up to the conflict. For example, the Israeli - Palestinian conflict long indicated itself when European countries such as the United Kingdom refused to take Jewish people to their own lands. This was responsible for the creation of a territory for these Jewish people in, at the time, Palestinian lands, which later on sparked major tension between the two sides which has still not ended.

As well as in history, in our current world this can be seen regularly. Before a war breaks out tension arises, which brings panic among people. Many immigrants or refugees' escape reason is this, and it has also lead to a displacement crisis in the place they have escaped to, along with creating other issues and threats.

2) Displacement during and after conflict

The main reason for people forcibly being displaced is because of the conflict occurring at that time. As war is already considered a crisis by many, it also creates many more crises connected to it with this being one of them. The major lasting impact that a conflict has on people is devastating. The UNHCR states that 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of any types of violence or human rights violations in 2016. If we think that another year has passed since this report by the UNHCR was made, it is possible to think up to an even more enormous extent. The most apparent and up-to-date example here is the influence of ISIS. The Islamic State created a completely horrific environment with the chaos it created in the MENA region. Nevertheless, people being forcibly displaced in war zones can happen **internally as well as externally**. While it is possible to see many refugees that have fled their country and been displaced in other nations, the question at hand mainly composes from people being **internally displaced**. These people are left homeless after being forcibly displaced as well however, they still have to remain within their country's borders.

3) Issues civilians encounter due to being forcibly displaced

When it is thought of people being forcibly displaced due to conflict, the first thing that comes to mind is that they lose their right to take shelter. Even though this is the main case when it comes to displacement, and everything develops around this specific event, there are still other issues that civilians encounter while being displaced. For example, a significant lack of food and water can be seen among refugees. This means that they don't have access to fundamental needs of a human being either, with people forcibly having to live a life that can't possibly be called a "life" under normal circumstances.

IV - Definition of Key Terms

Refugee: A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster

Internally Displaced: Someone who is forced to flee his or her home but who remains within his or her country's borders

Externally Displaced: One who has left his/her home temporarily, crossed an international border, and who expects to return eventually

Mass exodus: An occasion when everyone leaves a place at the same time

*These are some of the terms that you might see during your research and you can use (we strongly urge you to do so) these terms while preparing for the conference.

V - Important Events & Chronology

DATE	EVENT
1939-1945	The Second World War takes place, leaving millions of people displaced afterwards.
1947	Jewish settlements are expanded, creating controversy and sparking a future conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian people, which is still going on.

2001-present	The US invades Afghanistan against the threat of the militant terrorist organization Al-Qaeda, with the war still not ending and leaving up to 4 million people forcibly displaced.
2003-2011	The US invades Iraq, overthrowing the Saddam Hussein regime and starting the Iraq War; withdrawing all troops after an 8-year battle, leaving many people displaced in the country during and after the war.
2013-present	South Sudanese Civil War starts with over 1.5 million people fleeing the country and over 2 million people getting internally displaced.
2013-present	The Islamic State joins the Syrian Civil War even further increasing casualties and displacement among civilians. As of late around 12 million people are displaced in Syria, with this meaning more than half of the population.
2014-present	The Iraqi Civil War commences between the Iraqi government and the Islamic State, leaving over 5 million people displaced over the course of the war. Even though Iraqi forces announced the end of Islamic State's control on Iraqi soil, there are still minor attacks going on.
2015-present	The Yemeni Civil War breaks out between different ethnic groups, leaving many civilians internally displaced.
2016-2017	The Myanmar government persecutes the Rohingya people, forcing them to flee the country and escape to neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh.

*These events are just the most significant news that occurred in the 20th and 21st century, there are many more conflicts that happened in the time being.

VI - Past Resolutions and Treaties

There are many past resolutions that try to tackle the issue region-wise. Such are as follows:

[A/RES/69/154](#)

[A/RES/66/165](#)

[A/RES/56/166](#)

[A/RES/71/1](#)

These are just some examples of resolutions that have been submitted in different years, whether the topic is African refugees or internally displaced people.

Some Important Treaties

The most significant is the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, otherwise known as The 1951 Refugee Convention. This document is what the UNHCR work is based upon and we urge you to look into it further via this [link](#).

After that, the 1967 Protocol, which is another key treaty, went into action in 1967 and it was another key event in international refugee law. It expanded over the refugee convention mentioned.

While the convention has 145 member parties, the protocol has 146. There are still countries that are not a party to either of the two.

VII - Possible Solutions

Though solutions to solve the issue completely are far from being fully achieved while the conflicts and wars continue, there are still possible solutions to ensure that the human rights of the refugees are being respected. One of the first things that should be taken care of is conventions and protocols which has not been signed and ratified by every nation. The fact that some Middle Eastern and Southern Asian countries, which have these refugee conflicts, are not parties to the convention and protocol is especially concerning.

Refugee camps, even though first crafted as a temporary solution, have turned into long-term attempts to solve the issue. That is why the overall quality, capacity and well-being of these camps can be improved. 'Mobile cities' may be formed with services such as education, health, security, etc. are given through mobile centres. Another problem with refugee camps are their security and preventing refugees from either getting harmed or getting outside without permission. This might be solved through rebuilding these refugee camps with more security measures in mind. Also regulating these camps in collaboration with Amnesty International, UNHCR and human rights organizations might be beneficial as the conditions in these camps are often poor.

On the other hand, the social problems that this issue causes are perhaps the most difficult to solve. That is why events that target the discrimination of refugees and try to integrate these refugees into new cultures might be a place to start.

Most refugees die trying to escape from the conflicted zones, mostly because of the militias that they are caught by or their transportation ways. This might be solved by

establishing secure, cheap and easy transportation for refugees through working with governments of countries that take refugees, especially those of neighbouring countries.

Health, even though mentioned before, is significant in regards that it is both physical and mental. Health centres, with the help of NGOs, giving health care and mental support are significant. Other services such as education, when refugees are outside refugee camps, are also a problem due to differences in curriculum and language. Regional centres for such services might prove to be beneficial.

VII - Useful Links

<http://www.ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/10/eight-solutions-world-refugee-crisis/>

<http://www.unhcr.org/solutions.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/world/historical-migrant-crisis/>

<http://www.unhcr.org/5943e8a34.pdf>

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*You can contact us by sending an email if you have any questions prior to the conference;

ediker@my.aci.k12.tr

eseyithanoglu@my.aci.k12.tr