



**ITU
MUN**

UNHCR

STUDY GUIDE

- Easing pressure on countries that welcome and host refugees
- Fostering conditions that enable refugees to voluntarily return to their home countries

Lukas Kılınç

President Chair

Dilay Örüng

Deputy Chair

Istanbul Technical University Model United Nations 2024

UNHCR STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item 1: How Pressure Can be Eased on Countries That Welcome Refugees to Assist These Nations in Their Effort of Protecting Displaced Individuals

Agenda Item 2: The Correct Course of Action to Create Conditions That Will Allow Refugees to Voluntarily Return to Their Home Regions

Table of Contents

- 1) Letter from the Secretariat
- 2) Letter from the Committee Board
- 3) **Agenda Item 1: How Pressure Can be Eased on Countries That Welcome Refugees to Assist These Nations in Their Effort of Protecting Displaced Individuals**

- 3.1. Introduction to the Agenda
- 3.2. Definitions
- 3.3. Key Vocabulary
- 3.4. Current Situation of the Refugee Crisis
- 3.5. Major Parties Involved
- 3.6. Problems Experienced by Refugees in Host Countries
- 3.7. The impact of refugees on host communities and reasons to ease pressure
- 3.8. Questions to be Answered

- 4) **Agenda Item 2: The Correct Course of Action to Create Conditions That Will Allow Refugees to Voluntarily Return to Their Home Regions**

- 2.1. Introduction to the Agenda
- 2.2. Key Terminology
- 2.3. Addressing the Root Causes
- 2.4. Creating a safe and stable Environment
- 2.5. Rebuilding infrastructure and services
- 2.6. Ensuring Access to Essential Needs
 - 2.6.1. Further Actions to be Taken
- 2.7. Facilitating Reconciliation and Peacebuilding
 - 2.7.1. Past Implementations of the Agenda
 - 2.7.2. Worldwide acts of peacebuilding
- 2.8. Fostering International Cooperation
- 2.9. Questions to be Answered

- 5) **Bibliography**

Letter from the Secretariat

Most esteemed participants of ITUMUN24,

I, as the Secretary General of ITUMUN24, welcome you all to the 7th edition of Istanbul Technical University Model United Nations. It is an honor and a pleasure to be able to present to you what we have been preparing for months and dreaming for years. My team has worked tirelessly to bring the best you have ever seen, starting with our organization to our academics.

Our objective is to facilitate proficient and elevated diplomatic deliberations, fostering valuable and constructive solutions throughout the four-day duration of ITUMUN, enriched by the collective contributions of all participants. As a delegate, your journey begins here, with the study guide prepared by our dedicated members; your most honorable chairboard.

I advise you to read this study guide thoroughly and expand your research on different perspectives; focusing on your allocated country. It is essential to bear in mind that each nation and every perspective holds significance if you are adequately prepared to engage with the agenda at hand.

You have my best wishes for success and enriching discussions during these four days of enjoyment. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the valuable contributions you'll make to our conference.

Best regards,

Zehra Akçay

Secretary General of ITUMUN24



Letter from the Committee Board

Dear delegates,

We hope this message finds you well. As a member of the UNHCR committee, we wanted to take a moment to extend a warm greeting to you for the upcoming Model United Nations conference. We're thrilled to have you on board and can't wait to see the incredible contributions you'll make during the event.

Model UN conferences provide a unique platform for young minds like yours to engage in meaningful discussions and propose innovative solutions to pressing global issues. It's an opportunity to broaden your understanding of the world, develop your diplomatic skills, and forge connections with fellow delegates.

Throughout the conference, you'll have the chance to delve into the topic of refugee repatriation, a crucial issue that demands our attention and collective efforts. By exploring the complexities of this challenge and brainstorming effective strategies, we can work towards creating a better future for displaced individuals.

Remember, your voice matters. Your insights, ideas, and perspectives will contribute to shaping the resolutions and policies discussed during the conference. So, don't hesitate to share your thoughts, engage in fruitful debates, and collaborate with your fellow delegates.

If you have any questions or need any assistance leading up to or during the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out: dilayyyrng@gmail.com , lukahp123@gmail.com We're here to support you every step of the way.

Wishing you all the best in your preparations. Get ready for an unforgettable experience filled with growth, learning, and impactful discussions. We can't wait to see you shine!

Kindest Regards,
Lukas Kılınç & Dilay Örüng



Agenda Item 1: How Pressure Can be Eased on Countries That Welcome Refugees to Assist These Nations in Their Effort of Protecting Displaced Individuals

Introduction to Agenda Item

Over the past decade, the global refugee crisis has more than doubled in size. In 2022, UNHCR announced that we had surpassed 100 million total displaced people, meaning that more than 1.2% of the world's population was forced to leave their homes. By mid-2023, this also included 30.51 million refugees. More than half of these refugees come from just three countries. These numbers are high – almost incomprehensible – but each represents a person who was forced to leave everything behind due to circumstances beyond their control.

In international law, a refugee is a person who has fled their own country of nationality or habitual residence and who cannot return there for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group or their political opinions. These recent migratory movements are caused by various reasons. Some refugees stay in refugee camps, others are urban refugees in individual accommodation, still others live in self-settled camps, and the location of some refugees is undefined or unknown by UNHCR .

Welcoming refugees is a major global challenge, posing economic, political and social challenges to the countries that host them. Several nations face considerable pressure to provide resources, infrastructure and services to refugees, which can lead to internal tensions and difficulties in maintaining a balance between the needs of refugees and those of their local populations. Thus, the question of easing the pressure on these countries is crucial to guarantee dignified living conditions for refugees while preserving the stability and well-being of host nations. This problem raises humanitarian and political issues which require a global approach and concerted solutions on an international scale. Our committee will work on the current challenges faced by countries hosting refugees, the consequences of this pressure and will also explore the different potential strategies and measures to alleviate this burden in order to promote better integration of refugees and guarantee the stability of host countries.

Definitions

Refugees;

Refugees are outside their country of origin due to fear of persecution, conflict, violence or other circumstances which have seriously disrupted public order and which, therefore, require "international protection". The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, but also regional instruments and the UNHCR statutes make it possible to give a definition of a refugee.

Migrants;

According to the United Nations, this term designates "any person who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year, whatever the causes, voluntary or involuntary, of the movement, and whatever the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate. However, it is common to include certain categories of short-term migrants, such as seasonal agricultural workers who move during planting or harvest time.

Asylum Seekers;

Just like a refugee, an asylum seeker is a person seeking protection because of dangers in their home country. Although every refugee is initially an asylum seeker, not all asylum seekers will ultimately be recognized as refugees.

Indeed, the right to be recognized as a refugee is determined by law after an asylum seeker has requested protection in the country of refuge.

Key Vocabulary

Asylum: Legal protection granted to refugees by a country where they seek safety.

Displacement: Forced movement of people from their homes due to conflict, persecution, or disaster.

Forced migration: Movement of refugees or displaced people due to threats to their security or well-being.

Asylum seeker: A person seeking international protection but whose refugee status has not yet been determined.

Integration: The process by which refugees become an integral part of the host country's society, including social, economic and cultural aspects.

Repatriation: Return of refugees to their country of origin when conditions permit.

Resettlement: Transfer of refugees from the country where they requested asylum to a third country which agrees to welcome them permanently.

Resettlement Program: A government-led initiative allowing refugees to settle permanently in a host country.

Integration policies: Regulations and programs designed to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in the society of the host country.

Asylum policies: laws and procedures governing the granting of asylum to refugees.

Naturalization: Process by which a refugee becomes a citizen of the host country

Current Situation of The Refugee Crisis

Wars and violence had led to the forced displacement of around 114 million people by the end of September 2023. The main factors driving forced displacement in the first half of 2023 were: the war in Ukraine and conflicts in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar; a combination of drought, floods and insecurity in Somalia; and a protracted humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, according to UNHCR's Biannual Global Trends Report, which looks at forced displacement in the first six months of this year. Low and middle-income countries host 75% of refugees and others in need of international protection. Globally, 1.6 million new individual asylum applications were filed in the first six months of 2023, the highest number ever recorded.

- 1) High-income nations only take in 24% of all refugees. Just 24% of the world's refugees are hosted by the richest nations. The remaining 76% are hosted by underdeveloped, middle-class, and low-income nations. The largest nation that hosts refugees is Turkey. Since 2011, families have been displaced by a continuous conflict in Syria, which is home to the majority of refugees living in Turkey.
- 2) The majority of refugees reside in nearby nations
- 3) Just three nations accounted for 52% of all refugees worldwide by the end of 2022: Syria, Afghanistan, and the Ukraine.
- 4) There is a global accord to safeguard refugees; under the 1951 Refugee Convention, 149 nations have committed to offer refugee safeguards. After World War Two, when a great number of refugees escaped persecution and violence in Europe, this agreement was created.

Major Parties Involved

Türkiye

The situation of refugees in Türkiye is complex and significant due to the large number of people seeking refuge in the country. In 2023, Türkiye welcomed one of the largest refugee populations in the world, mainly Syrians fleeing civil war in their country. With nearly four million registered Syrian refugees, Türkiye has made considerable efforts to meet their basic needs such as education, health care and housing. However, this massive influx has also



created socio-economic challenges, including pressure on local resources, social tensions and integration difficulties. Despite aid programs and government initiatives, many refugees in Türkiye continue to face difficulties in rebuilding their lives and adapting to a new environment.

According to UNHCR data in 2022, there are more than 3.6 million refugees registered in Türkiye, mainly Syrians. However, it is important to note that this figure may vary due to the presence of unregistered migrants and asylum seekers, which makes it difficult to accurately estimate the total migrant population in the country.

Germany

In Germany, the situation of refugees is marked by a complex reception system but also by relatively open integration policies. The country has welcomed a significant number of refugees in recent years, especially after the 2015 migration crisis, where nearly one million people arrived, mainly from countries such as Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Germany has endeavored to put in place infrastructure to accommodate and support these newcomers, with reception centers and programs to provide them with housing, health care and language courses to facilitate their integration. Nevertheless, the integration process is complex and time-taking, with challenges such as job search, cultural and linguistic adaptation, as well as social and political issues related to the acceptance of refugees in German society. Despite these challenges, Germany has shown a continuous commitment to helping and integrating refugees into its society.

According to UNHCR data, the number of refugees in Germany varies over time due to arrivals, departures and ongoing asylum application processes. In 2022, it is estimated that there were about 1.5 million refugees in Germany. However, these figures may fluctuate and do not take into account unregistered migrants or asylum seekers awaiting processing of their file.

Iran

In Iran, the situation of refugees is notable because of the presence of a large population of refugees, mainly from Afghanistan. Iran is home to one of the largest refugee populations in the world, with Afghans representing the vast majority of this population. Most Afghan refugees in Iran have fled their country because of conflicts, political unrest and persistent economic difficulties in Afghanistan. Despite refugee status, many Afghans in Iran face socio-economic challenges, such as limited access to education and formal employment. About 780,000 Afghan refugees were registered in Iran according to UNHCR data in 2022, if we consider unregistered migrants and those living in Iran without official refugee status the number is reaching 2.6 million. Iran has made efforts to provide assistance to refugees, but there are still many challenges to ensure their integration and long-term well-being.

Pakistan



Pakistan hosts around three to four million Afghan refugees and migrants, at least 600,000 of whom have crossed the border since August 2021, when the Taliban seized power for the second time in Afghanistan. Of these, 1.3 million are registered as legal refugees, holding proof of registration cards, while another 850,000 have received Afghan citizen cards from Pakistani authorities, granting them some, but not all, protections. to registered refugees. An additional 1.7 million Afghans are estimated to reside in the country without any documentation. The Pakistani government recently intends to start deportations for those who reside illegally in the country. That decision, according to the international law and the United Nations regulations, should not include those who have refugee status but because of the complications in the region, these acts could possibly cause problems.

Uganda

Uganda, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, provides shelter to more than 1.5 million people. Most refugees come from South Sudan (57%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (32%), Somalia (3%) and Burundi (3%). Refugees live primarily in camps across twelve districts, alongside host communities, leading to economic and environmental challenges. From January to September 2023, Uganda received more than 73,460 new arrivals, including 20,693 from South Sudan, 19,522 from the Democratic Republic of Congo and 33,245 urban arrivals from Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and other countries.

Poland

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, more than 7.2 million refugees fleeing Ukraine have been recorded across Europe, with the vast majority initially fleeing to the nearest countries of its western border. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), nearly 1.5 million people have fled to neighboring Poland.

Bangladesh

In August 2017, armed attacks, mass violence and serious human rights violations forced thousands of Rohingya to flee their homes in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Today, more than 960,000 people have sought refuge in Bangladesh, the majority living in the Cox Bazar region, home to the world's largest refugee camp.

Sudan

By October 2023, the fighting that erupted in Sudan in April 2023 had driven out over 4.3 million residents and forced over 1.1 million others into five neighboring countries: South Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Chad, Egypt, and the Central African Republic (CAR).

Prior to the current crisis, Sudan and its neighbors were already housing sizable numbers of internally displaced people and refugees. The new situation produced major extra needs for the six UNHCR country operations engaged, which made it difficult for them to appropriately respond to the increasing number of persons who are forcibly displaced. These operations were already severely underfunded. Due to continuous warfare, severe shortages of food,

fuel, and water, poor access to electricity and communications, and exorbitant costs for basic needs, the humanitarian situation in Sudan is still catastrophic. Medical care has been

Problems Experienced by Refugees in Host Countries

There are several problems that refugees are still experiencing in their host countries. Some of these difficulties cannot even be prevented by governments. Social construction of a nation may not be easy to get used to by the people who came from another culture. Even though UN frameworks to help refugees are in progress, those who have entered the actual society of the host country face crucial difficulties.

- 1) Finding affordable housing and jobs
- 2) Language and communication barriers
- 3) Racism and discrimination
- 4) Impact of disrupted education on schooling
- 5) Distance and lack of communication with families in the country of origin and/or countries of asylum (especially if/where the family remains in a conflict situation)
- 6) Ongoing mental health problems due to trauma, including survivor's guilt
- 7) Financial difficulties
- 8) Visa insecurity (temporary visa holders)
- 9) Separation of family members; live in stepfamilies
- 10) Changes in the roles and status of family members.

The impact of refugees on host communities and reasons to ease pressure

Main parts of easing pressure on host countries;

It is essentially our humanitarian obligation to assist nations that are sheltering refugees. These nations open their borders to anyone escaping violence, persecution, or natural disasters, offering them sanctuary and refuge. Inaction on the part of these nations could result in vulnerable populations' suffering getting worse.

Overwhelming a single country can be prevented by distributing the load among several nations. To share duties, guarantee a just and equitable distribution of the refugee population, and lessen strain on a specific host country, international cooperation is essential.

Instability can result from congested refugee camps or contentious host communities. Tensions between host communities and refugees may result from this tension, which could ignite civil instability or conflict. Reducing the strain increases the likelihood of peace and



Impact of refugees on host communities (economic point of view)

A large number of refugees may cause negative effects on host countries' economic situation. Beside the positive effects, the committee has to be focused on negatives in order to find solutions to ease pressure on host countries.

One of the main problems is public expenditures; the presence of refugees may lead to an increase in public expenditure which is one of the struggles the governments and local administrations are facing. These expenditures are made to meet increasing needs in areas such as health services, education, housing and social assistance. This could put additional pressure on local budgets. Which is actually creating outrage in the public.

In some cases, unemployment among local people may increase as refugees join the labor market in their host country. The unfair competition may increase, especially in low-skilled jobs, and this may create difficulty in finding a job in some segments. It is seen that informally working refugees are causing unfair competition. Governments have to control and regulate the conditions.

Furthermore, refugee influxes can lead to inadequate infrastructure and basic services. Massive population growth can put extreme strain on healthcare systems, transportation and water resources. This may lead to inadequate existing infrastructure and a decrease in the quality of services.

Social and political challenges facing countries hosting refugees

Hosting refugees is a complex challenge for many countries. Beside the main economic challenge, there are several impacts which can be seen and observed such as pressure on resources, social and politic, security etc. The UNHCR committee has to analyze those main obstacles.

The arrival of large numbers of refugees can place enormous pressure on the already limited resources. Infrastructure such as health systems, schools, housing and social services can be overwhelmed, causing strain and hardship for local communities and refugees themselves.

The arrival of refugees can fuel social and political tensions. Some groups of the local population may feel threatened by the presence of refugees, fearing increased competition for jobs and resources besides that cultural differences may cause crucial disagreements and conflicts between the local people and refugees. This can give rise to hate speech, acts of discrimination and inter-community conflicts. Moreover this situation may raise some concerns about security. Governments face challenges in guaranteeing the safety of refugees while ensuring that ill-intentioned people do not enter their territory. Securing the internal safety and security of refugees governments are facing challenges regarding the social integration issues. Objectively, international cooperation is needed in this circumstance since

the refugee challenges often transcend national borders, requiring international response and cooperation. Host countries need financial, logistical and political support from the international community to address these challenges effectively and sustainably.

Questions To Be Answered

- 1) **How can the UN follow a solution to the refugee density in host countries?**
- 2) **What kind of practices can be used to address economic problems caused by refugees (illegal work and unfair competition environment) in host countries?**
- 3) **What kind of actions can be taken to prevent racist and discriminatory actions against refugees in host countries?**
- 4) **What role does international cooperation play in supporting countries hosting refugees?**
- 5) **How can a solution be reached for low-income and developing countries accepting a large number of refugees?**
- 6) **Can each country have a separate refugee admission policy? Or should a collective policy be determined by the UN?**
- 7) **What role can NGOs, international organizations and local communities play in helping host countries manage the refugee crisis?**
- 8) **How can we ease tensions between host communities and refugee populations to create a more cohesive environment?**
- 9) **What are the advantages of investing in development aid in refugee-hosting regions?**
- 10) **What innovative solutions or approaches have been successful in alleviating pressure on countries hosting refugees?**

Agenda Item 2: The Correct Course of Action to Create Conditions That Will Allow Refugees to Voluntarily Return to Their Home Regions

Introduction to the Agenda



In today's world, the issue of forced displacement and refugee crises has become a pressing global concern. As compassionate individuals, it is crucial for us to explore and discuss the correct course of actions to create conditions that will enable refugees to voluntarily return to their home regions. This agenda seeks to address the complex challenges faced by refugees and highlight the importance of sustainable reintegration strategies. By focusing on empowering individuals and rebuilding communities, we can pave the way for a dignified and voluntary return for those who have been displaced.

The voluntary repatriation of refugees holds immense significance, not only from a humanitarian standpoint but also in terms of fostering stability, peace, and development in their home regions. It is essential to recognize that refugees often yearn to return to their roots, reconnect with their cultural heritage, and contribute to the rebuilding of their communities. However, achieving this goal requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond mere physical return. It necessitates the creation of favorable conditions that address the multifaceted aspects of reintegration.

One crucial aspect of facilitating voluntary repatriation is ensuring the safety and security of returning refugees. Conflict-affected regions often suffer from ongoing instability, which poses significant risks to those considering returning home. By working collaboratively with international organizations, local governments, and peace-building initiatives, we can establish mechanisms to mitigate threats and create an environment where returnees can feel protected and secure.

Another vital element in the correct course of actions is addressing the socio economic challenges faced by returning refugees. Displacement often results in the loss of livelihoods, education, and access to essential services. To encourage voluntary return, comprehensive plans must be put in place to rebuild infrastructure, provide economic opportunities, and reinstate educational systems. By investing in sustainable development projects and fostering economic growth, we can empower returnees to rebuild their lives and contribute to the prosperity of their communities.

Lastly, fostering social cohesion and promoting reconciliation is paramount in creating an inclusive environment for returning refugees. Displacement often leads to fractures within communities, and healing these divisions is crucial for long-term peace and stability. By implementing programs that encourage dialogue and promote understanding.

Key Terminology

1. Voluntary Repatriation: The process of refugees choosing to return to their home regions willingly and without any external coercion.



2. Sustainable Reintegration: The establishment of long-term strategies and support systems to ensure the successful and lasting reintegration of returning refugees into their communities.

3. Durable Solutions: Approaches that aim to address the root causes of displacement and provide lasting solutions for refugees, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement.

4. Security and Protection: Measures taken to ensure the safety and well-being of returning refugees, including addressing ongoing conflicts, providing physical protection, and safeguarding human rights.

5. Livelihood Restoration: Efforts to support returning refugees in rebuilding their livelihoods and economic independence through access to employment opportunities, vocational training, and financial assistance.

6. Infrastructure Rehabilitation: Initiatives focused on restoring and improving essential infrastructure, such as housing, schools, healthcare facilities, and basic services, in the home regions of returning refugees.

7. Social Cohesion: Actions aimed at promoting understanding, trust, and harmonious relationships between returning refugees and host communities, fostering social integration and peaceful coexistence.

Addressing the root causes

In its latest Global Trends report, published in June 2022, UNHCR unveiled a stark picture of worldwide forced displacement. At the end of 2021, the number of people displaced by persecution, war, violence and human rights abuses had reached 89.3 million, a rise of 8% in just a year and more than double that of a decade ago. Put another way, it means that one in every 78 persons on this planet is displaced, a statistic which has surpassed previous estimates. The figure of 100 million was recorded in May, propelled in part by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

As detailed in UNHCR's report, of the 89.3 million people displaced in 2021, 27.1 million were refugees. The International Committee of the Red Cross defines refugees as people who have crossed an international frontier and are at risk in their country of origin, whereas internally displaced people are individuals who have been forced to leave their homes but have not crossed a border. Of the latter group, out of a total of 53.2 million, some 4.6 million were asylum seekers and 4.4 million were Venezuelans seeking to escape their country's turmoil, UNHCR says. Including Venezuela, more than two thirds of refugees came from just five countries, among them Syria and Afghanistan but where are refugees going?



While 2022 has seen the conflict in Ukraine and the subsequent mass displacement of its citizens, UNHCR reports that low- and middle-income countries housed the most displaced people in 2021, taking more than four in five refugees. Top of the list was Turkey, followed by Colombia, Uganda, Pakistan and Germany.

And why is mass displacement happening? A number of new crises have contributed to the escalation in displacement and the number of refugees. Equally, there are still centuries-old situations that continue to force people to leave everything behind. Historical factors include:

- a) Persecution
- b) Conflict
- c) War
- ç) Violence
- d) Human rights violations
- e) Events disrupting public order
- f) Disasters

When it comes to more modern-day displacement drivers, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre cites a variety of human-made factors including rapid economic development, urban growth and population growth in hazard-prone areas.

In addition, UNHCR points to the following heightened factors:

- Escalating and new conflicts: in Ethiopia's Tigray region, Afghanistan and Burkina Faso, among others
- Food scarcity
- Inflation
- Climate crisis

In terms of climate change, UNHCR calls it the “defining crisis of our time and disaster displacement one of its most devastating consequences”. The agency has previously said that an annual average of 21.5 million people have been forcibly displaced by weather-related occurrences since 2008.

More worryingly, the Institute for Economics & Peace, a think tank, predicts that more than one billion people are at risk of being displaced by 2050 due to environmental change, conflict, and civil unrest.

The World Economic Forum is working with IOM, UN Migration on its Strategic Intelligence Platform. The migration insight area of the platform shows how migration issues are connected to factors such as sustainable development, education and skills and climate change, among others.

Creating a safe and stable environment

Millions of refugees dream of going home. As the durable solution of choice for the largest number of refugees, voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity requires the full commitment of the country of origin to help reintegrate its own people.

It also needs the continuing support of the international community through the crucial post-conflict phase to ensure that those who make the brave decision to go home can rebuild their lives in a stable environment.

Our priorities are to promote enabling conditions for voluntary repatriation, to ensure the exercise of a free and informed choice, and to mobilize support for returnees. In practice, we promote and facilitate voluntary repatriation through various means, including organizing "go-and-see" visits for refugees, compiling updated information on their country and region of origin, engaging in peace and reconciliation activities, promoting housing and property restitution, and providing return assistance and legal aid to returnees

The UN General Assembly (GA) has repeatedly affirmed UNHCR's function of promoting/facilitating the voluntary repatriation of refugees and, in recognition of the importance of sustainable return, has widened its mandate to include providing assistance for their rehabilitation and dealing with the consequences of their return?

(monitoring the safety and well-being of returnees; supporting national efforts to build legal and judicial capacity to create conditions for reconciliation; supporting rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance; facilitating sustainable reintegration; etc.).

Where peace and reconciliation are durable, UNHCR promotes voluntary repatriation. Under less ideal conditions (e.g. when the sustainability of the peace process is not assured, but refugees are returning on their own) UNHCR may facilitate the return process

The UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom) conclusion also affirms international principles and standards governing the voluntary repatriation process and its core elements.

Ensuring sustainable return, with support from the international community, is the primary responsibility of the countries of origin. UNHCR seeks to facilitate the exercise of free and informed choices and to mobilize support for voluntary repatriation, the goal of which is for refugees to return in safety and dignity and for national legal systems to protect returnees



The core components of voluntary repatriation are physical, legal and material safety and reconciliation.

Rebuilding infrastructure and services

After fleeing war or persecution, one of the most effective ways people can rebuild their lives with dignity and in peace is through the opportunity to work and earn a living.

UNHCR works to promote livelihoods and economic inclusion for refugees. We advocate for their right to work and support them in becoming more resilient and achieve self-reliance.

Rebuilding one's life implies more than having a roof over your head and a safe place to sleep. It means reclaiming control of your future.

A powerful way to do so is to work for a living. Through decent work, refugees and displaced people can provide for their families' needs, maintain their dignity, become more resilient and be empowered to shape their future. Being able to work and making use of their skills and talents also allows refugees to contribute to their host communities.

As part of UNHCR's work, they collaborate with a wide range of partners, including States, development and humanitarian organizations, the private sector and civil society to enhance economic outcomes for refugees as well as host communities:

- **Inclusive market systems** – When designing effective interventions that will support refugees to work in local markets, a comprehensive understanding of the market system and the barriers for refugee inclusion is key. We work with the International Labour Organization and other partners to promote an inclusive market systems framework.
- **Financial inclusion** – Most refugees have no access to financial services, which limits their capacity to engage in sustainable livelihoods. We work with financial service providers and relevant partners to remove these barriers.
- **Poverty Alleviation Coalition** – Many refugees live in extreme poverty and vulnerability. The Poverty Alleviation Coalition is a global coalition of non-governmental organizations, led by UNHCR together with the Partnership for Economic Inclusion of the World Bank. The coalition aims to empower the poorest refugees and their host communities to move out of poverty through the Graduation Approach.
- **Agriculture and Food Security** – Refugees in rural areas count on farming to eat and earn a living. We work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and other partners to support refugees' inclusion in agriculture value chains and improve their income while ensuring healthy and nutritious food for everyone.
- **Social protection systems** – We work to include refugees and asylum seekers in government systems and align UNHCR assistance to these systems. This provides

predictable means for vulnerable families to meet basic needs, access family and social welfare services and support access to jobs and complementary decent work and health insurance benefits.

- **MADE51** – To showcase what an innovative, market-based model for economic inclusion of refugees might look like, we developed Made51 – a global brand of artisanal home décor and accessories crafted by refugees.
- **Data and Analysis** – Data is critical to policy-making and programming. We work with partners to improve the collection and analysis of socio-economic data and build a useful data library.

Empowering refugees to earn a decent living and participate in local economies requires the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders. UNHCR's role is to advocate for and convene different stakeholders and foster collaboration between them. To this end, we are building partnerships with financial service providers, development agencies and private sector companies. In environments where work is already underway to strengthen refugees' livelihoods, we coordinate with governments, humanitarian and development actors, the private sector and other partners to enhance inclusion and access of refugees to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities and related services and programs.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees – a blueprint for governments, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives.

The compact highlights a growing recognition of the development challenges posed by large-scale refugee situations and the need for inclusive development in refugee-hosting areas to build the resilience of local and refugee communities. It calls on all sectors of society to help enhance refugees' self-reliance. The compact positions itself as a means of mobilizing support to ensure refugees and their host communities share in a country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The right to work includes the opportunity for people to earn a living through work that is freely chosen or accepted. The right to work encompasses all forms of work, from independent self-employment to jobs that pay wages or salaries. The corollary of the right to work is the right to just and favorable conditions of work.

In other words, these two rights provide everyone, including refugees, equal access to decent work opportunities without discrimination and regardless of legal status and documentation. Under international law, decent work for everyone is provided through Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is given binding force by Article 6 and 7 of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, the International Labour Office ILO has developed international labor standards that apply to all workers, including refugees.



Ensuring access to essential needs in the home regions

When it comes to aid sent to refugee home regions, there have been various initiatives to provide support. For example, organizations like UNHCR and Red Cross have been working tirelessly to deliver essential supplies like food, clean water, medical assistance, and shelter to those in need. These aids aim to alleviate the suffering and improve the living conditions of refugees. It's amazing to see how these efforts make a positive impact on the lives of so many people.

In response to the global refugee crisis, numerous organizations and countries have stepped up their efforts to provide aid and support to those affected. One such organization is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which plays a crucial role in coordinating and delivering aid to refugee populations around the world.

When it comes to aid, there are several key areas that are addressed to meet the needs of refugees. One of the most fundamental aspects is the provision of food and clean water. Many organizations work tirelessly to ensure that refugees have access to nutritious meals and safe drinking water. For instance, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributes food rations to refugee camps, ensuring that people have enough to eat and stay healthy.

Another critical area of aid is healthcare. Refugees often face significant health challenges due to the difficult conditions they endure. Organizations like Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) provide medical assistance, setting up clinics and hospitals in refugee camps. They offer essential healthcare services, including vaccinations, maternal care, and treatment for diseases like malaria and cholera.

Shelter is another essential aspect of aid for refugees. Many organizations work to provide temporary shelters, such as tents or prefabricated houses, to ensure that refugees have a safe place to stay. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is actively involved in providing emergency shelter and camp management support to displaced populations.

Education is also a crucial component of aid for refugees, especially for children. Organizations like UNICEF work to establish schools and provide educational materials to ensure that refugee children have access to quality education. Education not only provides a sense of normalcy but also equips them with the skills they need for a better future.

Additionally, various countries have also played a significant role in providing aid to refugee home regions. For example, Germany has been actively involved in supporting refugees by offering asylum, providing housing, and facilitating integration programs. The German government, along with NGOs and volunteers, has been instrumental in helping refugees rebuild their lives.

These are just a few examples of the aids that have been sent to refugee home regions. The efforts of organizations, countries, and individuals demonstrate a collective commitment to alleviating the suffering and improving the lives of refugees worldwide.

One region that has received significant aid is Ukraine. Following the conflict in eastern Ukraine, many people were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country. Organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been providing emergency relief, including food, medical supplies, and shelter, to those affected by the crisis.

Another region that has been the focus of aid efforts is Palestine. The Palestinian territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, have faced ongoing challenges and displacement. Various organizations, such as UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), have been working tirelessly to provide essential services like healthcare, education, and social support to Palestinian refugees.

Syria is another country that has experienced a significant refugee crisis. Millions of Syrians have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict in the country. Humanitarian organizations like the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and UNHCR have been actively involved in providing aid, including food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter, to those affected by the conflict.

In addition to these examples, aid has been sent to other regions facing similar challenges, such as South Sudan, Myanmar, and Yemen. These are just a few instances of the international community coming together to support and provide assistance to refugees in their home regions:

1. Ukraine:

In Ukraine, aid efforts have focused on providing assistance to those affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been working to provide emergency relief, including food, medical supplies, and shelter, to people who have been forced to flee their homes. They also support hospitals and medical facilities to ensure access to healthcare services for those in need.

2. Palestine:

In Palestine, aid organizations like UNRWA have been working to support Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and other areas. They provide essential services such as healthcare, education, and social support to help improve the lives of Palestinian refugees. Additionally, organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) provide food assistance to vulnerable communities in Palestine.

3. Syria:



The ongoing conflict in Syria has resulted in a significant refugee crisis. Humanitarian organizations like the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and UNHCR have been at the forefront of aid efforts. They provide emergency relief, including food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter, to those affected by the conflict. They also work to ensure the protection and well-being of refugees, including children and women.

4. South Sudan:

In South Sudan, organizations like UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) provide aid to address the humanitarian crisis caused by conflict and displacement. They focus on providing healthcare services, clean water, nutrition support, and education to vulnerable populations, including children and women.

Further actions to be taken

To maintain essential needs in these regions, it is crucial to take further actions such as:

1. Continued humanitarian assistance: Aid organizations should continue providing ongoing support in the form of food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter. This ensures that the basic needs of the affected population are met.

2. Infrastructure development: Rebuilding and improving infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and water supply systems, is essential for long-term stability and access to vital services.

3. Education and skill-building: Investing in education and skill-building programs helps empower individuals and communities to rebuild their lives and contribute to the development of their regions.

4. Promoting peace and stability: Efforts should be made to address the root causes of conflicts and promote peace and stability. This includes diplomatic negotiations, peacebuilding initiatives, and fostering dialogue among different parties involved.

5. Sustainable development: Encouraging sustainable development practices, such as promoting renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly agriculture, can help create long-term resilience in these regions.

6. Collaboration and coordination: Governments, international organizations, and local communities should work together to ensure effective coordination of aid efforts and maximize the impact of resources.

7. Access to healthcare: Ensuring access to quality healthcare services, including medical facilities, trained healthcare professionals, and essential medications, is crucial for meeting the healthcare needs of the population.

8. Food security: Implementing sustainable agricultural practices, providing agricultural support and training, and establishing food distribution systems can help ensure food security in these regions.

9. Economic development: Promoting economic development through job creation, entrepreneurship, and investment opportunities can help improve livelihoods and create a stable economic environment.

10. Social support systems: Establishing social support systems, such as social welfare programs, community centers, and counseling services, can provide assistance and resources to vulnerable individuals and families.

11. Environmental protection: Protecting the environment and natural resources is essential for the long-term sustainability of these regions. This includes measures such as conservation efforts, waste management, and addressing pollution.

12. Empowering local communities: Encouraging community participation, involvement, and decision-making processes empowers local communities to take ownership of their development and ensures that their needs are met effectively.

These are just some of the actions that can be taken to maintain essential needs in these regions. It's important to approach the situation holistically and consider the specific context and challenges of each region.

Facilitating reconciliation and peacebuilding

The global refugee crisis has resulted in millions of people being displaced from their homes, seeking safety and refuge in foreign lands. While some refugees may eventually wish to return to their home regions, the process of repatriation can be complex and challenging. Facilitating reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts is crucial to ensure a safe and sustainable return for these individuals.

One important aspect is creating safe and secure environments in their home regions. This involves restoring infrastructure, providing basic services, and ensuring the physical safety of the returning refugees.

Another key factor is promoting dialogue and fostering understanding between different ethnic, religious, and cultural groups. This can be done through community engagement programs, intercultural exchanges, and initiatives that encourage open communication and empathy.



Addressing the root causes of conflict is also crucial. This includes addressing issues such as inequality, discrimination, and grievances that led to the displacement of refugees in the first place. Promoting social justice, economic opportunities, and political inclusivity can help build a foundation for lasting peace.

In addition, providing support and resources for trauma healing and psychosocial support is essential. Many refugees have experienced significant trauma and it's important to address their mental health needs to facilitate their successful reintegration into their home communities.

Facilitating reconciliation and peacebuilding for returning refugees requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the various aspects of conflict and displacement. It involves creating safe environments, promoting dialogue, addressing root causes, and providing support for healing and reintegration.

Past Implementations of the Agenda

In this particular part, we analyze some past implementations of refugee reintegration worldwide. One notable example is the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for Indochinese Refugees, which was implemented in the 1980s. This plan aimed to address the needs of refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia by providing them with resettlement opportunities, education, and vocational training. It involved collaboration between governments, NGOs, and international organizations to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach.

Another example is Germany's Integration Act, implemented in 2016, which aimed to support the integration of refugees into German society. This act provided language courses, vocational training, and job placement assistance to help refugees find employment and become self-reliant. It also emphasized the importance of social integration and community involvement to foster understanding and cooperation between refugees and the host population.

In Canada, the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program has been successful in facilitating refugee reintegration. This program allows private individuals or groups to sponsor refugees, providing financial and emotional support during their initial settlement period. By involving the community directly in the resettlement process, this program has helped refugees integrate into Canadian society more effectively.

Another notable example is the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. It has been a successful model for providing education and vocational training to refugees. The camp has established schools and vocational centers where refugees can learn skills such as carpentry, tailoring, and agriculture. This empowers them to contribute to the local economy and become self-sufficient.

In Australia, the Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative has gained traction. It allows community organizations and groups to sponsor refugees and provide them with support during their settlement process. This community-led approach fosters a sense of belonging and helps refugees integrate into Australian society more smoothly.

In Uganda, the Self-Reliance Strategy has been implemented to support refugee reintegration. It focuses on providing refugees with land, resources, and opportunities to engage in agriculture and entrepreneurship. This approach promotes self-sufficiency and economic empowerment among refugees.

These are just a few examples of past implementations of refugee reintegration worldwide. Each country and region may have different approaches based on their specific contexts and needs. It's important to learn from these past experiences and continue to explore innovative strategies to ensure the successful reintegration of refugees into their new communities.

Over the years, various approaches have been implemented to support the reintegration of refugees into their home communities. By examining past implementations, we can gain valuable insights into what has worked effectively and identify promising practices for future endeavors:

Comprehensive Integration Programs:

In some instances, countries have implemented comprehensive integration programs that address various aspects of refugee reintegration. These programs often include language and vocational training, access to education and healthcare, and support for finding employment. By offering a holistic approach, these programs have shown positive outcomes in helping refugees rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient contributors to their new communities.

Community Engagement and Social Cohesion:

Successful reintegration requires the active involvement of both refugees and host communities. Past implementations have emphasized community engagement initiatives that foster social cohesion and intercultural understanding. These efforts have included organizing cultural exchange events, community dialogues, and joint projects. By promoting interaction and mutual respect, these initiatives have played a vital role in creating welcoming environments for refugees.

Tailored Support for Vulnerable Groups:

Refugees who belong to vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, often require specialized support during the reintegration process. Past implementations have recognized this need and established targeted programs to address their specific challenges. These initiatives have provided access to healthcare, education, legal assistance, and psychosocial support tailored to the unique needs of these groups.



Partnerships and Collaboration:

Successful reintegration efforts have involved partnerships and collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations. By harnessing the expertise and resources of multiple stakeholders, these implementations have been able to provide a more comprehensive range of services and support to refugees. Collaborative efforts have also facilitated knowledge sharing, capacity building, and the development of sustainable solutions.

Long-Term Planning and Sustainable Solutions:

Past implementations have highlighted the importance of long-term planning and sustainable solutions for refugee reintegration. It is crucial to go beyond immediate humanitarian responses and focus on building resilient communities. This includes investing in infrastructure, creating economic opportunities, and fostering social integration. By taking a long-term perspective, countries can ensure that the reintegration process is not only successful initially, but also sustainable in the years to come.

Worldwide Acts of Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

When it comes to reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts, there are inspiring stories from around the world. Let us give you a glimpse into some of these examples. They showcase the power of dialogue, forgiveness, and justice in healing communities and fostering peace:

- 1. South Africa:** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) played a significant role in South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy. It provided a platform for victims and perpetrators to share their experiences and seek forgiveness. The TRC aimed to uncover the truth, promote healing, and prevent further violence. By addressing the past injustices, it laid the foundation for a more inclusive and reconciled society.
- 2. Rwanda:** After the devastating genocide in 1994, Rwanda embarked on a long and challenging journey towards reconciliation. The Gacaca courts, community-based tribunals, were established to bring justice to the victims and hold perpetrators accountable. These courts aimed to promote truth-telling, forgiveness, and healing at the grassroots level. The process was not without challenges, but it contributed to rebuilding trust and fostering a sense of unity among Rwandans.
- 3. Colombia:** The peace agreement signed between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in 2016 marked a significant milestone in ending the decades-long armed conflict. The agreement focused on various aspects, including transitional justice, land reform, and political participation. By addressing the root causes of the conflict and involving all stakeholders, the agreement aimed to build a sustainable peace and promote reconciliation among Colombians.

4. Northern Ireland: The Good Friday Agreement, signed in 1998, brought an end to the sectarian violence that plagued Northern Ireland for decades. The agreement established power-sharing arrangements, addressed human rights concerns, and created institutions for cross-community cooperation. By promoting dialogue, inclusivity, and respect for diverse identities, the agreement laid the groundwork for reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants.

These examples highlight the diverse strategies and approaches used to facilitate reconciliation and peacebuilding. They demonstrate the importance of addressing historical injustices, promoting truth and accountability, and fostering dialogue and understanding among different groups. Each context requires unique solutions, but the ultimate goal is to create a harmonious and inclusive society.

5. Bosnia and Herzegovina: After the Bosnian War in the 1990s, the Dayton Agreement was signed, bringing an end to the conflict. The agreement aimed to establish a multi-ethnic and democratic country. Efforts have been made to promote interethnic dialogue, rebuild trust, and foster reconciliation among Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs.

6. Liberia: Following a long and brutal civil war, Liberia implemented a truth and reconciliation process to address past human rights abuses. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided a platform for victims and perpetrators to share their stories and seek forgiveness. This process contributed to healing and national reconciliation.

7. Sierra Leone: In Sierra Leone, the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established to prosecute those responsible for war crimes committed during the civil war. The court aimed to bring justice to the victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Alongside the legal process, community-based reconciliation efforts have been undertaken to promote healing and social cohesion.

Numerous peace initiatives have been undertaken to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Efforts such as the Oslo Accords, Camp David Summit, and the Annapolis Conference aimed to find a peaceful resolution and establish a two-state solution. Although the road to peace remains challenging, these initiatives reflect the ongoing commitment to reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

These additional examples demonstrate the global nature of reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts. Each situation requires unique approaches tailored to the specific context and dynamics of the conflict. The common goal is to promote understanding, healing, and a peaceful resolution for the benefit of all involved.

Before any repatriation can take place, it is essential to establish a safe and secure environment in the refugees' home regions. This involves demilitarization, disarmament, and the restoration of law and order. Collaborative efforts between international organizations, governments, and local communities are necessary to address security concerns and rebuild trust among all parties involved.



Implementing truth and reconciliation processes can help address the grievances and injustices that led to the displacement of communities in the first place. These processes provide a platform for victims to share their stories and seek accountability for past atrocities. By acknowledging the pain and suffering experienced by all parties, truth and reconciliation processes can contribute to healing, forgiveness, and the restoration of relationships.

Refugees returning to their home regions often find their infrastructure and essential services in disrepair or completely destroyed. Rebuilding schools, hospitals, roads, and utilities is crucial to ensure a sustainable return. International aid and support are necessary to provide the necessary resources and expertise for reconstruction efforts. Additionally, involving local communities in the rebuilding process fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment.

Successful repatriation involves not only physical return but also the socioeconomic integration and reintegration of returning refugees. Providing access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and social support networks is essential for their successful reintegration into their communities. Programs that promote skills training, entrepreneurship, and microfinance can empower individuals to rebuild their lives and contribute to the local economy.

In many cases, conflicts that led to displacement are rooted in deep-seated ethnic or sectarian divisions. Promoting interethnic dialogue and reconciliation is crucial to building lasting peace and preventing future conflicts. Community-based initiatives, cultural exchanges, and grassroots peacebuilding.

In conclusion, facilitating reconciliation and peacebuilding for refugees who wish to return to their home regions is a complex but essential process. By creating a safe environment, implementing truth and reconciliation processes, rebuilding infrastructure, promoting socioeconomic integration, and fostering interethnic dialogue, we can pave the way for a sustainable and peaceful return. It is through these collective efforts that we can provide hope and a brighter future for those who have endured displacement. Together, we can build a world where every individual can find peace and security in their own home.

Questions to be Answered

1. What are the key factors that contribute to a safe and stable environment in their home regions?
2. How can we address the root causes of conflict and instability to create lasting peace?
3. What steps can be taken to rebuild infrastructure and essential services in their home regions?



4. Are there any specific economic opportunities that can be developed to encourage voluntary return?
5. How can we ensure the protection of human rights and provide justice for those affected by the conflict?
6. What role can the international community play in supporting the repatriation process?
7. How can we engage with local communities to promote social cohesion and acceptance of returning refugees?
8. Are there any cultural or societal challenges that need to be addressed to facilitate voluntary return?
9. What measures can be put in place to guarantee the safety and security of returning refugees?
10. How can we ensure that the repatriation process is voluntary, dignified, and sustainable for all involved?

9) Bibliography

UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency. (n.d.). *Refugees and the Environment* | UNHCR. UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/publications/refugees-and-environment>

Nearly 50,000 migrants assisted to voluntarily return home: 2021 Return and Reintegration key highlights. (2022, July 28). International Organization for Migration. <https://www.iom.int/news/nearly-50000-migrants-assisted-voluntarily-return-home-2021-return-and-reintegration-key-highlights>

Bradley, M. (2021). Realising the right of return: Refugees' roles in localising norms and socialising UNHCR. *Geopolitics*, 28(3), 979–1006. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2021.1994399>

Paloutzian, R. F., & Sağır, Z. (2019). Forgiving, Reconciling, and Peace-Building in Refugee Contexts: Theory, Research, and Data from the War in Syria. In *Peace psychology book series*(pp. 181–200). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-14943-7_12

Statista. (2023, December 11). *Refugees - major hosting countries worldwide as of 2023.* <https://www.statista.com/statistics/263423/major-refugee-hosting-countries-worldwide>

UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency. (n.d.-a). / UNHCR. UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>



Irc. (2023, October 20). *Refugee facts, statistics and FAQs*. The IRC.
<https://www.rescue.org/article/facts-about-refugees-key-facts-faqs-and-statistics>

Which countries are taking in the most refugees in 2023? (n.d.). Concern Worldwide.
<https://www.concern.net/news/which-countries-take-in-the-most-refugees>

How to help refugees — aid, relief and donations | USA for UNHCR. (n.d.).
<https://www.unrefugees.org/>



ITU
MUN