

UNHCR

POST-RESETTLEMENT CONDITIONS OF REFUGEES IN EUROPE

UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL
UTKU AKKULAK

LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear delegates,

I would like to give a warm welcome to all of you that come to participate CityMUN 2020. I hope to give you an amazing experience that you can look back on with joy.

Over the course of 3 days in total, you are going to be saving our world. I hope that you take this opportunity to widen your horizon to in a respectful manner, challenge and be challenged and form new friendships. Our team worked so much for you, both academically and organizational. During these 3 days, we hope that you'll be pleased.

We can't wait to see you all in CityMUN 2020. Please don't hesitate to ask me anything via email.

mervekarakulak6@gmail.com

Yours Sincerely,
Merve Karakulak



LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Participants,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to CITYMUN 2020. My name is Utku Akkulak. I'm more than happy to serve you as the Under Secretary General responsible the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Committee.

In this committee you will be discussing " Post-resettlement conditions of refugees in Europe" Also, please do not forget that this issue has a very important place in the world. Therefore, I wish you all fruitful, cooperative, fulfilling and efficient debates. Hope you can find decent resolutions upon this important issue. I hope you will have 3 amazing days.

You can contact me for inquiries about the guide and conference in general at auxiliary82@gmail.com
Yours Sincerely.

Utku AKKULAK

Under Secretary General



UNHCR was established on 14 December 1950 and succeeded the earlier United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees (other than Palestinian refugees, who are assisted by UNWRA) and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

UNHCR's mandate has gradually been expanded to include protecting and providing humanitarian assistance to whom it describes as other persons "of concern," including internally displaced persons (IDPs) who would fit the legal definition of a refugee under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization for African Unity Convention, or some other treaty if they left their country, but who presently remain in their country of origin. UNHCR presently has major missions in Lebanon, South Sudan, Chad/Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as Kenya to assist and provide services to IDPs and refugees in camps and in urban settings.

UNHCR maintains a database of refugee information, ProGres, which was created during the Kosovo War in the 1990s. The database today contains data on over 11 million refugees, or about 11% of all displaced persons globally. The database contains biometric data, including fingerprints and iris scans and is used to determine aid distribution for recipients. The results of using biometric verification has been successful. When introduced in Kenyan refugee camps of Kakuma and Dadaab in the year 2013, the UN World Food Programme was able to eliminate \$1.4m in waste and fraud.

To achieve its mandate, the UNHCR engaged in activities both in the countries of interest and in

countries with donors. For example, the UNHCR hosts expert roundtables to discuss issues of concern to the international refugee community.

AGENDA ITEM: Post-Resettlement Conditions of Refugees in Europe

Introduction:

An estimated 362,000 refugees and migrants risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea in 2016, with 181,400 people arriving in Italy and 173,450 in Greece. In the first half of 2017, over 105,000 refugees and migrants entered Europe.

This movement towards Europe continues to take a devastating toll on human life. Since the beginning of 2017, over 2,700 people are believed to have died or gone missing while crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, with reports of many others perishing en route. These risks do not end once in Europe. Those moving onwards irregularly have reported numerous types of abuse, including being pushed back across borders.

With so many lives at risk, rescue-at-sea operations undertaken by all actors must remain a priority.

Despite some progress in increasing the number of safe pathways to Europe, these opportunities are far too few to offer a feasible alternative to risky irregular journeys for people in need of protection. Further efforts are

needed to increase access to existing legal pathways, including family reunification. UNHCR also calls for European and other countries to offer an additional 40,000 resettlement places, which will complement already existing commitments, to be made available for refugees located in 15 priority countries along the Central Mediterranean route.

Those arriving in Europe need adequate reception and assistance, particularly those with specific needs, including unaccompanied and separated children and survivors of sexual and gender based violence, and access to fair and efficient asylum procedures. More solidarity is needed within the EU to ensure protection, including through efficient and speedy family reunion and relocation.

Overall, there is a need for a comprehensive plan of action that will support long-term solutions to the complex issue of mixed migration and help address its root causes, in close cooperation with countries of origin and transit and in line with international law.

European Migrant Crisis

The European migrant crisis, also known as the refugee crisis, was a period beginning in 2015 characterised by high numbers of people arriving in the European Union (EU) from across the Mediterranean Sea or overland through Southeast Europe following Turkey's migrant

crisis. It was part of a pattern of increased immigration to Europe from other continents which began in the mid-20th century and which has encountered resistance in many European countries. In March 2019, the European Commission declared the migrant crisis to be at an end.

Immigrants from outside Europe include asylum seekers and economic migrants. The term "immigrant" is used by the European Commission to describe a person from a non-EU country establishing his or her usual residence in the territory of an EU country for a period that is, or is expected to be, at least twelve months. Most of the migrants came from regions south and east of Europe, including the Greater Middle East and Africa.

Some research suggested that record population growth in Africa and the Middle East was one of the drivers of the crisis, and it was also suggested that global warming could increase migratory pressures in the future. In rare cases, immigration has been a cover for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants disguised as refugees or migrants. By religious affiliation, the majority of entrants were Muslim (usually Sunni Muslim), with a small component of non-Muslim minorities (including Yazidis, Assyrians and Mandeans). According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the top three nationalities of entrants of the over one million Mediterranean Sea arrivals between January 2015 and March 2016 were

Syrian (46.7 percent), Afghan (20.9 percent) and Iraqi (9.4 percent).

Of the migrants arriving in Europe by sea in 2015, 58 percent were males over 18 years of age (77 percent of adults), 17 percent were females over 18 (22 percent of adults) and the remaining 25 percent were under 18. The number of deaths at sea rose to record levels in April 2015, when five boats carrying almost 2,000 migrants to Europe sank in the Mediterranean Sea, with a combined death toll estimated at more than 1,200 people. The shipwrecks took place in a context of ongoing conflicts and refugee crises in several Asian and African countries, which increased the total number of forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2014 to almost 60 million, the highest level since World War II.] The number of people crossing EU borders illegally has fallen from 1.8 million in 2015 to 204,219 in 2017.

Asylum applications in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states between 1 January and 30 June 2015 according to Eurostat data.

European Migrant Crisis 2015

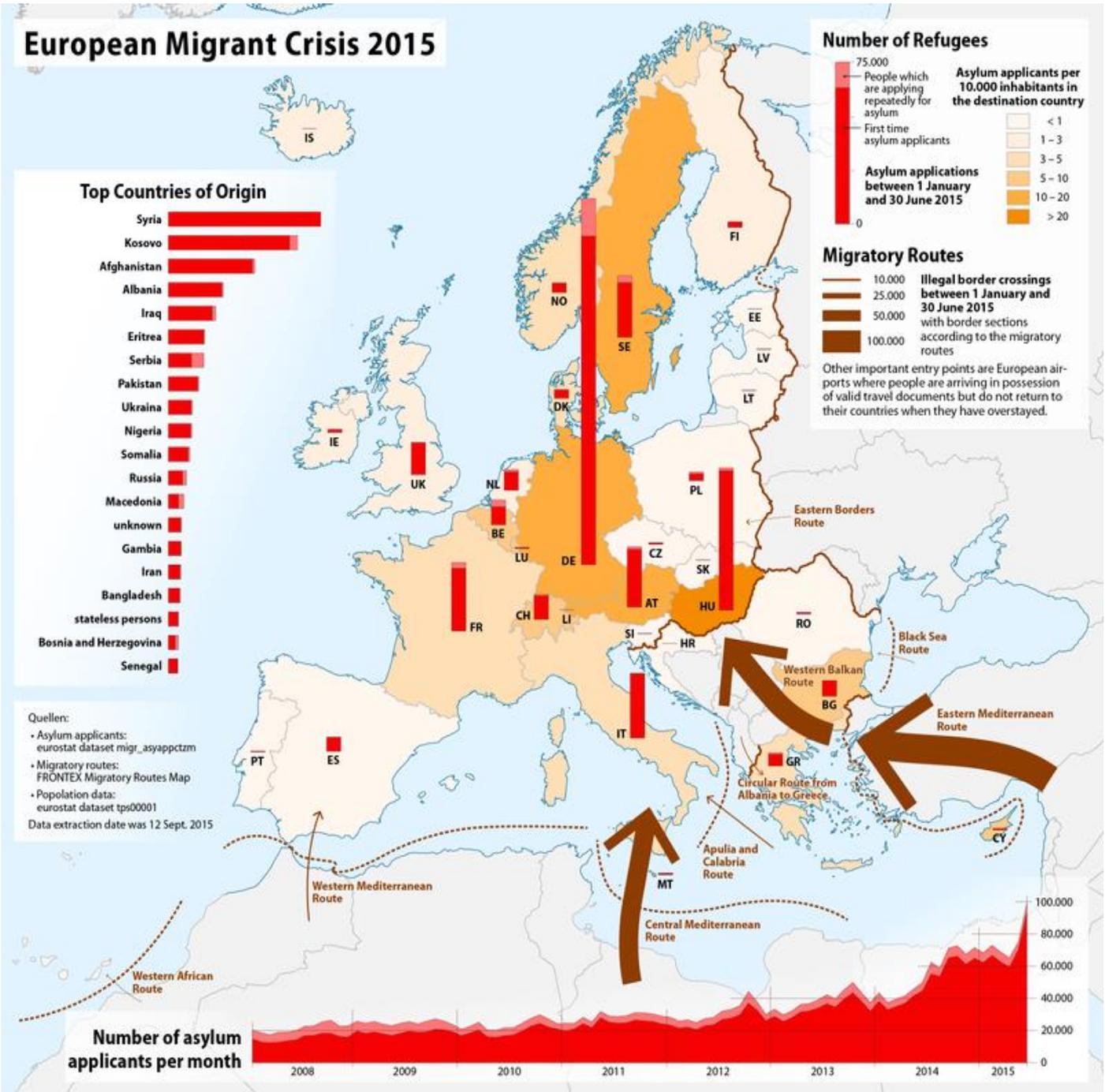
Top Countries of Origin



Number of Refugees



Migratory Routes



8 WAYS TO SOLVE THE WORLD REFUGEE CRISIS

1. Opening up safe routes to sanctuary for refugees is one important solution. That means allowing people to reunite with their relatives, and giving refugees visas so they don't have to spend their life savings and risk drowning to reach safety.

2. It also means resettling all refugees who need it. Resettlement is a vital solution for the most vulnerable refugees – including torture survivors and people with serious medical problems.

Right now, 1.2 million people urgently need this lifeline.

Saving lives

3. World leaders also need to put saving lives first. No one should have to die crossing a border, and yet almost 7,000 people drowned in the Mediterranean alone in the two years since the first big shipwreck in October 2013.

Thousands of people fleeing persecution in Myanmar suffered for weeks on board boats while Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia bickered over who should help them in May 2015.

States can stop this by investing in search and rescue operations and immediately helping people in distress.

4. And whether they travel by land or by sea, people fleeing persecution or wars should be allowed to cross borders, with or without travel documents. Pushing people back and putting up massive fences only forces them to take more dangerous routes to safety.

Stop trafficking and racism

5. All countries should investigate and prosecute trafficking gangs who exploit refugees and migrants, and put people's safety above all else. Survivors whom Amnesty met in Southeast Asia said traffickers killed people on board boats when their families couldn't pay ransoms. Others were thrown overboard and left to drown, or died from because there was no food and water.

6. Governments also need to stop blaming refugees and migrants for economic and social problems, and instead combat all kinds of xenophobia and racial discrimination. Doing otherwise is deeply unfair, stirs up tensions and fear of foreigners, and sometimes leads to violence – even death.

In Durban, South Africa, at least four people died, many were seriously injured, and over 1,000 mainly Burundian and Congolese refugees forced

to flee after violence and looting broke out in April and May 2015.

START FUNDING 'BROKE' UN PROPERLY

7. “Financially broke” is how Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, described UN agencies in September 2015. Wealthy countries quite simply aren’t keeping their high-profile promises to fund aid for refugees abroad.

For example, the UN has received less than half the funding it needs to support Syria’s 4 million refugees. This is now forcing 80% of refugees living outside camps in Jordan to do dangerous, degrading jobs or send their children out to beg.

South Sudan’s forgotten refugee crisis has been met with a pitiful 18% of the money needed for absolute basics like food and medicine.

People are dying while governments spend billions on border control. They urgently need to guarantee full funding to alleviate refugee crises worldwide.

Asylum is a human right

8. The world has a very short memory. In the aftermath of World War II, most countries agreed

to protect refugees through the 1951 Refugee Convention, and through UN agencies like the UNHCR.

Barbed wire fences and chronic underfunding have left that vision of a better world in tatters. By ignoring the warning signs, world leaders have allowed a huge, global humanitarian crisis to unfold. Ultimately, it will be resolved by ending the conflicts and persecution that forced people to flee in the first place.

But no one knows when that will be. Meanwhile, we need radical solutions, visionary leadership and global co-operation on a scale not seen for 70 years. That involves setting up strong refugee systems: allowing people to apply for asylum, treating their refugee claims fairly, resettling the most vulnerable of all, and providing basics like education and healthcare.

None of these eight solutions are impossible to achieve, if politicians listen to the millions of people saying “I welcome refugees”, and put solidarity and compassion above petty wrangling over who should host a few thousand refugees.

What is UNHCR doing to help?

UNHCR, working with partners, is providing a broad range of support and assistance in Europe for refugees and asylum-seekers. These efforts include humanitarian and cash assistance, provision of accommodation and support to improve reception conditions, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, protection monitoring and interventions, engaging with refugee communities to enhance their participation and including their voice in their voice in the response, identification and support to persons with specific needs, including separated and unaccompanied children, and referral to appropriate services.

To adequately respond to the protection needs of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe, UNHCR launched the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMP), involving 60 partners.

To improve the situation of refugee and migrant children arriving and staying in Europe without their parents or care givers, UNHCR, UNICEF and IRC issued a Roadmap and a call to action.

UNHCR has sets out a practical vision for the EU's global engagement with refugees and for the reform of its asylum system in its paper "Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally".

Syrian Refugee Crisis



Syria is the largest ongoing refugee crisis in the world right now.

Before Syria's brutal war started in 2011, more than 22 million people called the nation home. After eight years of violence and civil war, the Syrian crisis has already displaced over 5.4 million refugees. Now, hundreds of thousands of refugees are in harm's way due to the worsening conflict.

We've seen heart-wrenching photos and heard rhetoric that inspires fear, anger, and distrust, but what are the facts about Syrians fleeing their homes and creating a global refugee crisis of epic proportions?

With such a long, complex history, we know it can be daunting to understand why this is happening and how you can help. Keep reading to learn everything you need to know about the Syria refugee crisis, what Food for the Hungry (FH) is doing to help, and how you can join us in our work.

What is currently happening in Syria?

The Syrian Civil War has escalated once again. Increasing conflict and violence are putting millions of children and families at risk. A new Turkish military

offensive launched last on October 9, 2019, in northeastern Syria, escalating the conflict with ground troops, airstrikes, and sniper fire. Since last week, at least 160,000 have been displaced, and at least 170,000 children are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of ongoing violence in the area (UNICEF). Colder temperatures setting in across the region are worsening the situation.

What is the history of the Syrian refugee crisis?

Syria's refugee crisis began in March 2011 as pro-democracy protests turned violent, sparking even more protests by hundreds of thousands of Syrians. Violence escalated into civil war. According to the United Nations, an estimated 90,000 people died by June 2013. That number climbed to 250,000 by August 2015 and had drawn in neighboring countries, world powers, jihadists, and the Islamic State (ISIS).

Horrorific human rights violations have been reported over the years. These include public executions, beheadings, amputations, and the use of chemical weapons against civilians. People fled for their lives, leaving behind their belongings, friends, family, and any sense of welfare or security.

Half of Syria's pre-war population is displaced due to violence since the start of the civil war. Over five million people — half of them children — are refugees in other countries. They live in tents or dilapidated



buildings and are desperate for food, shelter, water, and other necessities. Many parents helplessly watch while their children wither away.

Where are Syrian refugees living now?

Most refugees fled to the neighboring countries of Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan where FH is offering aid in partnership with MERATH and the Integral Alliance. As of October 2019, Turkey has taken in over 3.6 million Syrian refugees. With host communities in the Middle East overwhelmed — food, medical care and other necessities dangerously scarce — a wave of 1 million people flooded several countries in Europe in August 2017, which are also struggling to integrate and provide for the refugees.

What happened to the other half of the population?

Another 6.1 million people are internally displaced in Syria — trapped inside a country devastated by war, surviving on the edge of life, surrounded by horrors too brutal to imagine, and struggling to survive in the country's shattered infrastructure and economy..

How is Food for the Hungry responding to the Syrian refugee crisis?

Since 2013, FH has partnered with MERATH (Middle East Revive and Thrive) to work through local churches

both within Syria and in neighboring countries Lebanon and Iraq where refugees have fled. Currently, FH, Integral Alliance, and MERATH are meeting vital, immediate needs of vulnerable families with emergency food aid, shelter, and winterization support, as well as educational assistance for children including child-friendly spaces, psychological counseling, and more.

FH is also supporting our global relief partner Medical Teams International (MTI) in the rapid needs assessment of conditions throughout the conflict zone as shifting alliances amongst the warring groups will impact many.

Additionally, we have also signed a statement by the Great Commandment/Great Commission Summit pledging our organization's ongoing help to Syrian refugees.

What challenges do Syrian refugees face?

Lack of income is one of the biggest struggles refugees face. Without money, parents can't provide for their families, which puts children in danger of disease and death. Crowded spaces and lack of resources have also made hygiene a huge concern. Due to lack of clean water and sanitation, diseases like polio and cholera easily spread. In some locations, water shortages have

severely impacted the population; refugees in these areas get only 30 liters of water per person per day.

More than half of all Syrian refugees are under 18. Many have been out of school for months or years. A lack of education threatens to trap them into a generation of poverty even after the war is over. These children and teens have lost their homes, schools, families, and friends.

How are Syrian refugee children impacted?

The struggles of this conflict most heavily fall on children. UNICEF estimates that 2.6 million children remain displaced inside Syria, with 2.5 million children living as refugees in neighboring countries.

Everyone is exposed to violence and displacement due to war. However, kids are particularly vulnerable to health risks, abuse, or exploitation. Millions can no longer pursue an education, which will set back their mental growth and development for years. Many Syrian kids are also drafted into the war. Or they are captured on the long trips they must make to safety. Syrian children are in desperate need of safety and shelter, food, clean water, and simple warmth.

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