



The question of relocating refugees and IDPs

Introduction

Every minute, 24 people around the world are forced to flee their homes. These displaced persons flee their countries or regions of origin and cannot return because of armed conflicts or violence, or because they are victims of serious and repeated violations of human rights. According to the statistics provided by the UNHCR, there are 70.8 million forcibly displaced people in the world, of which 25.9 million are refugees who have left their country and 41.3 million of internally displaced persons who have left their homes without leaving the country (the remaining 3.5 million are asylum seekers).

Definitions

A Refugee is a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. (Geneva Convention 1951)

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. (UN guiding principles on internal displacement)

Resettlement is the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another state that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent settlement. UNHCR is mandated by its Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of the three durable solutions, along with voluntary repatriation and local integration.

History of Topic

People have been forced to leave their nation since the very notion of a country was created. After Austria-Hungary declared war on, and subsequently invaded Serbia, tens of thousands of Serbians were forcibly displaced from their homes. Some of the largest atrocities committed during and after World War I were directed at the Armenians whose population of 2 million was devastated by what was later recognised as the first genocide of the 20th century. By the time WWII ended, there were more than 40 million refugees in Europe alone. The scale of the disaster was such that international law and international organisations were urgently created and quickly evolved into what they are today. The International Refugee Organisation, after its creation in 1946, resettled over 1 million refugees between 1947 and 1951. Even before the war's end, thousands of Germans began to flee Eastern Europe, most of whom were forcibly removed.

Worth Noting



Governments and non-governmental organizations help assist integration, using methods such as cultural orientation and vocational training, as well as programs to promote access to education and employment. However, a conclusive list of international standards would help to facilitate their resettlement in any state around the world, which is financially feasible and ensures an equal standard of integration to all refugees.

Often socially excluded and impoverished, many refugees and IDPs are confined to camps where they have limited freedoms and few hopes for self-sufficiency. In many circumstances, protection challenges are perpetuated in the absence of longer-term solutions to displacement.

Today, the Syrian refugee crisis has been further exacerbated by Syria's civil war, with more than three million people fleeing the country and it is estimated that more than double that number are uprooted and homeless within Syria itself. In 2018 the UNHCR submitted the files of over 81,300 refugees for consideration by resettlement countries. The main beneficiaries of UNHCR-facilitated resettlement programmes during this period were refugees from the Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Afghanistan.

Points to consider:

- What does your country perceive to be the best way of integrating resettled refugees into their new country?
- How many refugees or IDPs either arrived or left your country over the last few years?
- How to best prevent situations of people having to flee from their homes?
- Should wealthier nations be obliged to resettle some of these migrants to lessen the burden on neighbouring nations?
- How best to integrate resettled refugees into a new country due to cultural and language differences?

Useful links:

<https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/250553/idp-definition>

<https://www.unhcr.org/4a2fc046e.pdf>

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/resettlement.html>

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/resettlement-data.html>

