Forum: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (GA3)

Topic: Addressing measures to uphold humanitarian standards in refugee camps and temporary detention centres

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Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Katerina Makrymichalou, and I'm a year 11 student at St. Catherine's British School. This year, I'm honoured and excited to serve as your Co-Chair in the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (GA3)!

My journey with MUN has been one of the most transformative experiences of my academic life. Through countless debates and conferences, MUN has not only made my public speaking skills sharper but also deepened my understanding of global issues that happen in our everyday lives. It has taught me the importance of diplomacy and collaboration and on a basic note, it has shaped my worldview by reminding me that behind every policy and statistic there are real people's lives who are affected by the decisions we make.

As a Co-Chair, my main goal is to create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for all delegates. I wholeheartedly want every delegate to feel valued and seen because, whether it's your first conference or your third, every delegate deserves to be heard, recognised, and most importantly, enjoy themselves.

The second topic of this committee, namely "Addressing measures to uphold humanitarian standards in refugee camps and temporary detention centres" involves multiple ethical considerations. This study guide will provide you with an overview of the topic at hand. However, I suggest conducting your own research in order to gain a deeper understanding of your country's policy and stance on the issue. If you have any

questions leading up to the conference or on this specific topic, feel free to email me at katerinamakrymichalou@gmail.com.

Best regards,

Katerina Makrymichalou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

All around the world, more and more people are being forced from their homes. According to the 2025 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) global report, over 120 million people are currently displaced worldwide[1],the highest number ever recorded. Ongoing conflict and political instability have forced millions to leave their homes, mainly in areas such as the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, where displacement crises are especially severe. Entire communities are displaced overnight. Globally, 122.3 million people[2] are   living in makeshift shelters or overcrowded refugee camps that can barely cover basic necessities, leading to resource scarcity.

However, despite these harsh challenges people have to endure daily, international and local actions have begun to restore dignity and improve living conditions for displaced communities. The UNHCR's Clean Energy Challenge[3], urges for the creation of renewable energy camps. These efforts lead actions in countries like Uganda and Jordan to accept refugees into their local economies so they can integrate into the community. Regional actions such as the global compact on refugees encourage solidarity, while advancements in the digital world create systems to help ensure accountability and access to aid. Still, these actions require stronger global commitment and sustained funding to truly transform temporary shelters into spaces of safety and hope.

[1] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Global Trends." *UNHCR*, 6 Apr. 2024, www.unhcr.org/global-trends.

[2] *SUFFERING by DESIGN the HUMAN COST of REPEATED DISPLACEMENT in GAZA*. 23 Dec. 2024, drc.ngo/media/ieul0lw0/drc-parc-and-wac-report-suffering-by-design.pdf.

[3] "Clean Energy Challenge | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2019, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/climate-change-and-displacement/clean-energy-challenge. Accessed 25 Oct. 2025.

Establishing humanitarian standards in these settings requires multifaceted cooperation that truly goes beyond borders. This issue goes beyond geography and politics, it refers to our shared humanity. The very existence of refugee camps and detention centres is a challenge that sometimes limits compassion, reminding us that the world's moral responsibility does not end where borders do. To go 'beyond borders' means to look past lines on a map and act on the values that united us, such as empathy and justice. As humanity looks over borders, we must envision a world where communication is better than isolation, and where every displaced person, no matter their origin or circumstance, is guaranteed safety and respect.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Refugee

"A person who has escaped from their own country for political, religious, or economic reasons or because of a war"[4].

Refugee camp

"A place where people who have escaped their own country can live, usually in bad conditions and only expecting to stay for a limited time"[5].

War

Armed fighting between two or more countries or groups A particular example of this would be nuclear war[6].

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[4] "REFUGEE | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/refugee.

[5] Cambridge Dictionary. "Refugee Camp." *@CambridgeWords*, 6 Aug. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/refugee-camp.

[6] ---. "WAR | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 2019, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/war.

Temporary detention center

"A facility used for the short-term confinement of individuals, such as those who have been arrested and are awaiting trial, or for the migrants awaiting immigration proceeding"[7] .

Displacement

"A situation in which people are forced to leave the place where they normally live"[8].

Scarcity

"A situation in which something is not easy to find or get"[9].

Internally Displaced People (IDP)

"Someone who is forced to leave their home but who remains within their countries borders"[10]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Overview

The systemic displacement and movement of refugees has become a common phenomenon in today's society. Throughout history, various wars and political conflicts led to millions of people being displaced. Two examples are the mass displacements caused by World War II, such as the mass migration of jews during that period to non-nazi influenced/allied countries and the more recent crisis in Syria and Afghanistan. During WWII, an estimated 60 million people were displaced across

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[7] "Definition of Temporary Detention." *Collinsdictionary.com*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 20 Oct. 2025, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/temporary-detention. Accessed 25 Oct. 2025.

[8] Cambridge Dictionary. "Displacement." @*CambridgeWords*, 14 May 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/displacement?q=Displacement.

[9] ---. "SCARCITY | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 2019, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/scarcity.

[10] ---. "Internally Displaced Person." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 8 Aug. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internally_displaced_person.

Europe, making it one of the largest forced migrations in history[11]. In Syria, the civil war that began in 2011 has forced over 12 million people[12] to flee their homes and caused many more to become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In Afghanistan, multiple decades of conflict and political instability have produced large populations of refugees to be displaced in neighboring countries. This phenomenon mainly affects women and children and as of 2020, the numbers were staggering, at 36 million[13] affected worldwide. The creation of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1950 aimed to make a global commitment to protect those forced to flee. The UNHCR protects refugees through a combination of actions. For instance, it monitors refugee situations worldwide and provides food, shelter and medical care. Moreover, it coordinated resettlement programs. According to a 2024 UNHRC report 35 million people[14] were assisted globally. The fact that refugees rely on international surveillance systems or legal frameworks for protection completely undermines how vulnerable they really are.

The 1951 Refugee Convention[15] and its 1967 Protocol[16] agreed who qualifies as a refugee as well as created mandatory actions for states to provide protection and shelter. Quoting the 1951 Refugee Convention "A refugee is a person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, 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"[17]. Member states that have ratified the Convention have to

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[11] Imperial War Museums. "What Happened to People Displaced by the Second World War?" *Imperial War Museums*, 2024,
www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-happened-to-people-displaced-by-the-second-world-war.

[12] ---. "Syria Refugee Crisis Explained." *Unrefugees.org*, The UN Refugee Agency, 13 Mar. 2025,
www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/.

[13] UNICEF. "Child Migration - UNICEF Data." *UNICEF DATA*, Apr. 2021,
data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/migration/.

[14] "Global Report 2024 | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2024, www.unhcr.org/publications/global-report-2024.

[15] UNHCR. "The 1951 Refugee Convention." *UNHCR*,
www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention.

[16] Wikipedia Contributors. "Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 11 June 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_relating_to_the_Status_of_Refugees.

[17] United Nations. "Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees." *OHCHR*, United Nations, 28 July 1951, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-relating-status-refugees.

provide protection and basic living necessities. These actions are set in motion to ensure that refugees are not forced to return to unsafe conditions and that they have access to essential services. However, as time passes, the growing complexity of modern conflicts and climate induced displacement has created major issues that go far beyond what was initially envisioned in the mid 20th century.

Causes and Patterns of Displacement

Displacement today is caused by a mix of armed conflict, political problems, persecution, poverty and damage to the environment. Ongoing wars in nations such as Syria, Sudan, and Ukraine continue to push millions across borders in search of safety. Last year, this number reached a staggering 900,000[18]. Meanwhile, increasing climate related diseases such as malaria, caused by floods, have forced people from regions like South Asia and the Pacific Islands to flee.[19] Common migration routes such as the ones where Syrian refugees enter into Turkey or Lebanon, are journeys that are often extremely dangerous and are exposing refugees to human trafficking and very limited access to food and water.

Furthermore, according to the UNHCR global trends report 2025, more than 120 million people worldwide[20] are currently reported to be displaced including refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). Migration patterns are often focused on fragile borders such as those where customs and state agencies are unable to operate effectively and coasts with neighbouring countries having the highest pressure. For example, Turkey hosts over 3.2 million Syrian refugees[21], while Uganda is one of Africa's leading countries for hosting people with at the moment hosting well over 1.76 million

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[18] ---. "Syria Refugee Crisis Explained." *Unrefugees.org*, The UN Refugee Agency, 13 Mar. 2025, www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/.

[19] McMichael, Celia. "Climate Change-Related Migration and Infectious Disease." *Virulence*, vol. 6, no. 6, July 2015, pp. 548–53, https://doi.org/10.1080/21505594.2015.1021539.

[20] ---. "Global Trends." *UNHCR*, 6 Apr. 2024, www.unhcr.org/global-trends.

[21] ---. "Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Türkiye | UNHCR Turkey." *UNHCR Turkey*, 2014, www.unhcr.org/tr/en/kime-yardim-ediyoruz/refugees-and-asylum-seekers-tuerkiye.

people.[22] The country shelters over 1.6 million displaced people[23] from South Sudan and the democratic Republic of Congo. Additionally, issues that lead to displacement include lack of governance, destruction of homes and infrastructure which target people who are fleeting because of conflict. All these problems make it impossible for people to go back sooner which in the end causes them to be displaced for multiple months or even years, stops help from being brought to them and creates serious mental health problems for those who had to escape.
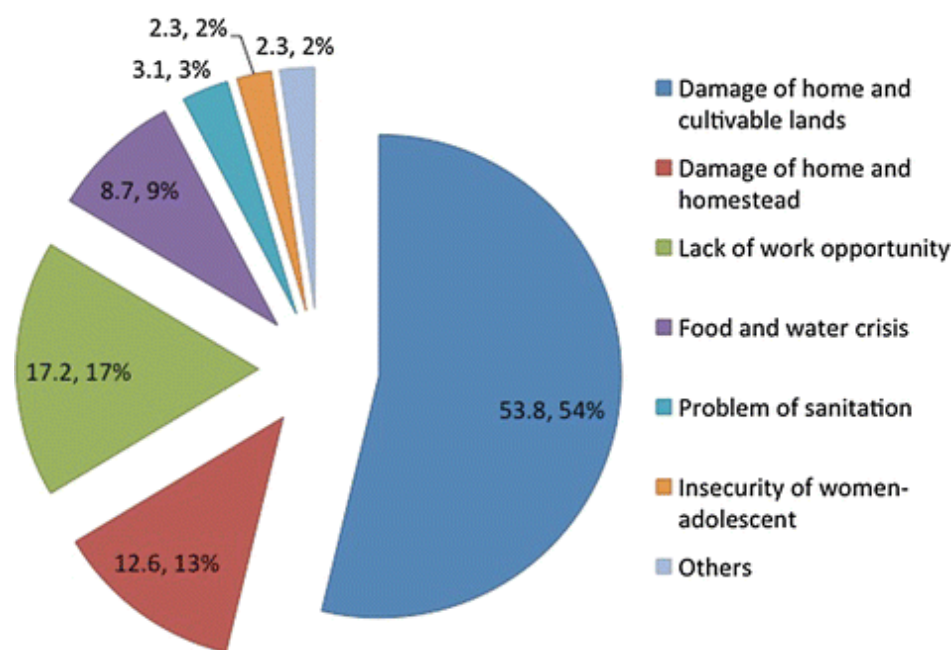

Figure 1: graph depicting causes and patterns of displacement as of 2023[24]

Standards and legal obligations in Refugee Camps and Detention Centers

International humanitarian law and human rights law offer clear guidance on how people who have been displaced must be treated. As mentioned previously, the 1951 refugee Convention, article 14 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article

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[22] admin. "UGANDA RANKS 6TH as MOST POPULAR AFRICAN DESTINATION for INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES - Uganda Tourism Board." *Uganda Tourism Board*, 9 July 2020, utb.go.ug/uganda-ranks-6th-as-most-popular-african-destination-for-international-conferences/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

[23] "Situation South Sudan." *Unhcr.org*, 2025, data.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan/location/4808.

[24] "Causes of Migration of the Displaced People." *ResearchGate*, www.researchgate.net/figure/Causes-of-migration-of-the-displaced-people_fig4_287390820.

14)[25] and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) all "see the right to seek asylum and the obligation of states to protect those fleeing prosecution". These laws protect refugees as they set certain standards that all states who provide asylum must comply to . They prevent people needing to forcefully return to countries where individuals face persecution and ensure access to basic necessities such as shelter as mentioned earlier.

Furthermore, the fact that refugee camps and detention centers struggle to meet even a minimum level of protection and sanitation is a severe issue. Without these standards, refugees often face malnutrition and limited access to education . The Sphere Humanitarian Standards[26] set minimum access to water, namely 15 liters per person daily, sanitation, and medical care, making it nearly impossible to survive in these conditions as most refugee camps don't meet these standards. Reports indicate that over 16.2% of refugee camps failed to meet the minimum water sanitation standards[27], and 40% of temporary detention centres lack proper medical infrastructure[28], often due to limiting funding and political restrictions. For example, governments often limit or avoid establishing detention centers or refugee camps because these actions can cause political risks. These risks include fears that camps could end up becoming permanent settlements or create social tension that may undermine governments authority.

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[25] United Nations. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *United Nations*, 10 Dec. 1948, www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights.

[26] Sphere. "What Are Humanitarian Standards? | Sphere Standards." *Sphere*, 10 Apr. 2019, spherestandards.org/humanitarian-standards/.

[27] Ali, Syed Imran, et al. "Evidence-Based Chlorination Targets for Household Water Safety in Humanitarian Settings: Recommendations from a Multi-Site Study in Refugee Camps in South Sudan, Jordan, and Rwanda." *Water Research*, vol. 189, Feb. 2021, p. 116642, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2020.116642.

[28] kffakashp. "Health Issues for Immigrants in Detention Centers | KFF." *KFF*, 30 Sept. 2025, www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/health-issues-for-immigrants-in-detention-centers/.
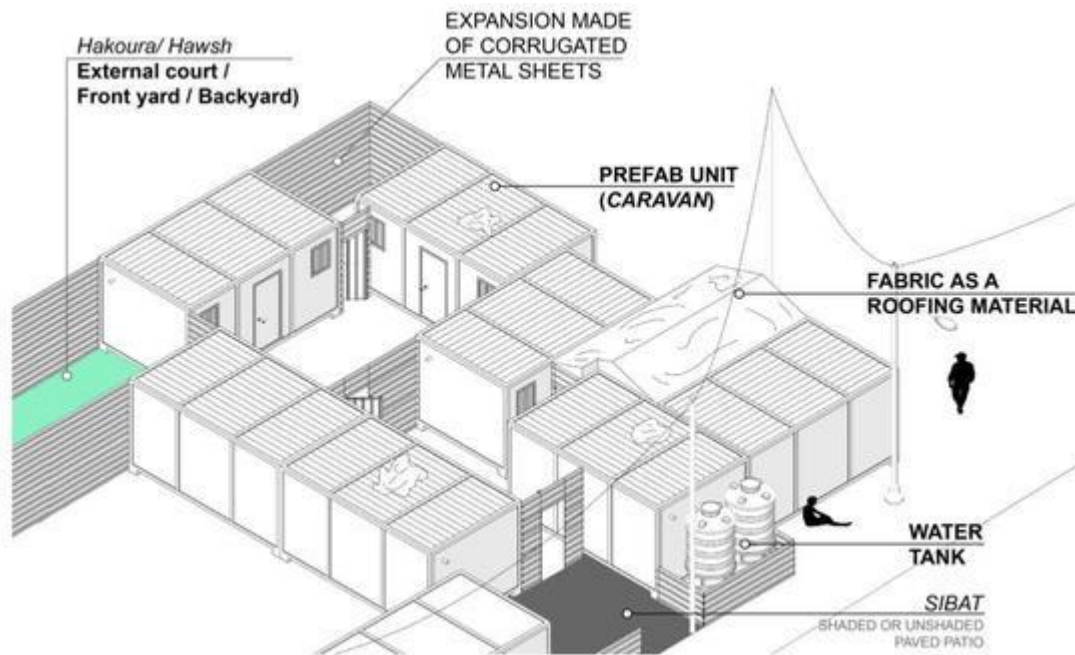
Figure 2: image depicting the internal structure of a refugee camp[29]

Current issues and Growing Global Concerns

Throughout the last years, numerous refugee camps faced a major humanitarian crisis. TIn Bangladesh[30] for instance , more than 900,000 refugees live in overcrowded conditions in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp[31], lacking access to sanitation and educational services. Similarly, refugees living in Lebanon and Jordan remain under enormous pressure as host countries struggle to keep up with the growing population and economic decline. In Lebanon, more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees[32] have overwhelmed public services while Jordan hosts more than 750,000 registered Syrian

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[29] Abu-Aridah, Dima, and Rebecca L. Henn. "Construction 4.0 in Refugee Camps: Facilitating Socio-Spatial Adaptation Patterns in Jordan's Zaatari Camp." *Buildings*, vol. 14, no. 9, 16 Sept. 2024, p. 2927, https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings14092927.

[30] ---. "Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Mar. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohingya_refugees_in_Bangladesh.

[31] Barua, Amit, and Rutu Hitesh Karia. "Challenges Faced by Rohingya Refugees in the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Annals of Global Health*, vol. 86, no. 1, 2020, https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.3052.

[32] Tanno, Sophie. "Syrian Migrants in Germany Face Uncertain Future as Government Floats Repatriation." *CNN*, 9 Nov. 2025, edition.cnn.com/2025/11/09/europe/syrian-migrants-germany-repatriation-intl.

refugees[33]. In Europe, discussions around the management of Mediterranean detention centres, particularly in Greece and Italy have led to controversy over violations of asylum rights and humanitarian standards. Many detention centers have faced immense overcrowding and raising concerns about living conditions. These cases highlight not only the size of the displaced population but also the unequal distribution of responsibility across nations.

Figure 3: *Photo depicting the* Bangladesh Cox's Bazar Refugee camp[34]

Humanitarian and Social Impacts

The consequences of poor living conditions go further than physical harm. Long term displacement can lead to psychological trauma and loss of education. Refugee children,

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[33] "Jordan: Over 750,000 Refugees Risk Facing a Stifling Humanitarian Crisis due to Lack of Funding [EN/AR] - Jordan | ReliefWeb." *Reliefweb.int*, reliefweb.int/report/jordan/jordan-over-750000-refugees-risk-facing-stifling-humanitarian-crisis-due-lack-funding-enar.

[34] "First Person: Rohingya Refugees Traumatized Again, after Devastating Camp Fire | UN News." *News.un.org*, 25 Apr. 2021, news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1090362.

who make up nearly 40% of the displaced population[35], are particularly vulnerable as well as women, with millions lacking access to formal education. Without education and access to legal documents, refugees cannot rebuild their lives and become part of the community they live in which exacerbates the issue and further burdens host countries. The burden also imposes pressure on host communities, where limited resources can create social tension and strain local infrastructure, such as the mass need for public health services or public transport.

Despite these issues, humanitarian organisations continue to work immensely to provide aid. Attempts with the UNHCR, UNICEF, and local NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), have led to improved education systems and mental health assistance. For example, UNHCR and UNICEF have established temporary learning centers and have put refugee children into formal schools and trauma informed programs for both children and adults to help resolve their mental state. Through such actions, emphasis is put on the fact that displacement is not just rooted in political negligence, but mainly in humanitarian mismanagement .

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of the Event	Event
28th July 1951	The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was created in Geneva, establishing the legal definition of a refugee and the rights of a displaced person.
31st January 1967	The 1967 Protocol expanded the 1951 Convention by removing its geographic limitations, making refugee protection

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[35] Taylor, Zoe, and Josiah Kaplan. *Mental Health in Displaced Child and Youth Populations: A Developmental and Family Systems Lens*. 2023, www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/3741/file/UNICEF-Mental-Health-Displacement-2023.pdf.

	a universal principle which can be applied to any displaced person worldwide.
30th April 1975	As the Vietnam war ended, millions fled Southeast, starting the Indochinese refugee crisis. Refugee camps in Thailand and Malaysia became overcrowded, highlighting the need for stronger international cooperation.
6th April 1994	The genocide in Rwanda led to the mass displacement of over 2 million people into neighboring states such as Tanzania. The humanitarian responses exposed weaknesses in emergency refugee management and health infrastructure.
19th September 2001	Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, the UN began formal discussions on managing migration in a secure yet humane manner. Eventually, this created the idea of the Global Compact for Migration[36], which was finalized in 2018

[36] International Organization for Migration. "Global Compact for Migration." *International Organization for Migration*, 25 Jan. 2019, www.iom.int/global-compact-migration.

5th March 2003	The US led invasion of Iraq triggered a large-scale displacement crisis which forced more than 4 million of Iraq citizens to flee internationally and abroad, particularly to Syria and Jordan.
15th March 2011	The outbreak of the Syrian civil war has become one of the largest modern day displacement crises to ever occur, with millions who were forced to flee their home towns and spark an unpredictable amount of humanitarian needs around the globe.
12th January 2010	The Haiti earthquake caused massive international displacement, with hundreds of thousands living in temporary camps. This event really highlighted how natural disasters contribute to forced migration other than conflict.
1st September 2015	The European refugee crisis intensified as thousands of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and other conflict zones crossed the Mediterranean sea to find shelter in Europe.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has been at the front of the Rohingya refugee crisis since 2017, hosting over 900,000 refugees who have escaped the violence in Myanmar[37]. Most live in the Cox's Bazar area, which in 2025, has become the largest refugee settlement in the world. Despite limited space and resources, Bangladesh continues to cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international agencies to improve camp infrastructure and education. Through this cooperation, agencies have provided funding and technical support to maintain these shelters and water sanitation systems, while also training teachers with on and off the job training and supplying educational materials. While these efforts have helped resolve these needs, they also remain partially unsuccessful due to severe overcrowding and limited land availability.

Jordan

Jordan hosts around 760,000 refugees[38], the majority of which fled conflict from Syria and Iraq. Camps such as Zaatari and Azraq are opened and managed by the Jordanian government and UNHCR, offering some basic necessities like shelter, food, water, education, and other key factors for living. And while these previous efforts have provided some relief and have prevented a more severe crisis, with limited access to long-term employment, it makes them extremely difficult to implement. Despite its limited economic capacity and scarce natural resources, Jordan continues its humanitarian commitments to help refugees find a better life.

Lebanon

Lebanon has the world's largest per capita refugee population, and currently hosts nearly 1.3 million Syrian refugees [39] and residents within its borders. This has created a

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[37] *Humanitarian Exchange Special Feature Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: The Humanitarian Response*. odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/HE-73_web.pdf.

[38] "Jordan | UNHCR Africa." *UNHCR Africa*, 2022, www.unhcr.org/africa/where-we-work/countries/jordan. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025.
[39] "Lebanon | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 19 June 2025, www.unhcr.org/where-we-work/countries/lebanon.

tremendous strain on Lebanon's weak economy and public services. Refugees often live in informal settlements such as shanty towns or squatter settlements with little to no access to clean water or education. Lebanon's government has worked with UN agencies and local NGOs to attempt and resolve the issues. They attempted to address the crisis by coordinating with the UNHCR and other organisations to provide humanitarian assistance and education programs. These efforts unfortunately largely failed to fully resolve the issue because of Lebanon's severe economic collapse.

Myanmar

Myanmar is currently a major country in global displacement discussions and this is mainly due to the ongoing persecution and human rights abuse faced by the Rohingya Muslim minority. Back at the beginning of August 2017, military operations in Rakhine State forced thousands of people to escape Bangladesh or headed further north. This is directly relevant to Myanmar because the mass displacement reflects how the government has failed to protect a population and has created a regional humanitarian crisis. People around the world have called out Myanmar for human rights violations, but the government keeps pushing back against UN led efforts which restrict independent monitoring and rejects any sort of recommendations from international humanitarian organisations such as the Humans Rights Council (HRC) to enforce minimum standards in refugee camps.

Turkey

Turkey is now the largest refugee hosting country in the world, sheltering more than 3.2 million Syrian refugees and hundreds of thousands Afghan and Iraqi refugees[40]. The EU Turkey Agreement (2016) made Turkey a major country in managing the migration to Europe. It is meeting the basic needs of many refugees by providing healthcare and education through government-led attempts, but has severely caused problems and growing domestic tension. Limiting funding and overcrowded urban areas have put pressure on hospitals and schools making it difficult to provide consistent access to services. Providing healthcare and education has also contributed to growing domestic

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[40] UNHCR. "Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Türkiye | UNHCR Turkey." *UNHCR Turkey*, 2014, www.unhcr.org/tr/en/kime-yardim-ediyoruz/refugees-and-asylum-seekers-tuerkiye.

tension as some Turkish citizens see that some resources are diverted from local communities leading to a competition over jobs and public services

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC)

The UNHCR leads various efforts to protect and support refugees around the world. Among numerous measures, the organisation coordinates big refugee camps, ensures governments comply with the 1951 Refugee Convention by monitoring the treatment of refugees and reporting violations. The UNHCR also shapes refugee policies such as advising governments to create frameworks for resettlement solutions. Furthermore, it handles emergencies such as sudden mass displacement because of conflict or by natural disasters like the Haiti earthquake, and lastly helps refugees and IDPs integrate into the community. As of today, the UNHCR has helped 67% of refugees[41] in need of international protection and provide life saving aid.

International Organisation of Migration (IOM)

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), manages migration on a global scale, by providing humanitarian aid to refugees and helping people resettle. It assists displaced people returning to their place of residence safely, contributes to consolidation of border management and addresses climate induced migration. The IOM achieves this by working with national governments and UN agencies to plan and deliver aid such as food and shelter. In terms of border management, IOM offers training and policy guidance to ensure migration flows are managed safely and works closely with UN agencies such as the UNHCR and multiple governments to ensure humanitarian aid is reached.

United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF)

UNICEF steps in for children in need. Their goal is to keep refugees and IDP children safe, and make sure that necessities such as proper education, nutrition and sanitation as well as medical care are accessible. UNICEF partners with the UNHCR and local NGOs to deliver child protection programs in refugee camps all over the world and ensure that

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[41] "The UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Framework - Google Search." *Google.com*, 2016, www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=The+UNHCR%E2%80%99s+Comprehensive+refugee +framework&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025.

young refugees are not denied their fundamental rights to safety and learning opportunities. A few of these programs include educational programs or well being programs to ensure children are learning but also that their mental health is not strained because of the trauma in the camps. Moreover, UNICEF ensures that all refugee children still have their fundamental right to education and have access to educational facilities.

RELEVANT UN TREATIES CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) A/RES/217 A (III)[42]

On the 10th of December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set out the core ideas of equality and freedom for everyone. Article 14 specifically stands out, as it recognises the rights of every person to seek asylum from prosecution in other countries. This declaration states actions for later international refugee laws to be implemented and continues to shape how the world responds to people forced to leave their residence .

Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967) A/RES/2198 (XXI)[43]

This protocol was adopted on the 31st of January 1967 and expands on the protections of the 1951 Convention which erases its limits on place in the world nor the time. It states that every person, regardless of their identity and country of origin , has the right to seek protection. By removing geographic restrictions, the protocol made refugee protection a universal principle which ensures that individuals who are fleeing persecution anywhere in the world, at any time, do have asylum.

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[42] ---. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *United Nations*, 10 Dec. 1948, www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights.

[43] "Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967) - Google Search." *Google.com*, 2020, www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Protocol+Relating+to+the+Status+of+Refugees+(1967)&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025.

Global Compact on Refugees (GCR, 2018) A/73/12 (Part II)[44]

Created by the United Nations General Assembly on 17th December 2018, the Global Compact on Refugees builds on the 1951 Convention and 1967 protocol, and urges countries to share responsibility for refugees asylum in a more fair manner, with a goal to take some of the heavy load off host countries and find safer, more lasting solutions for residents. The GCR does this by promoting a framework for international cooperation and encourages states to contribute financial resources.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

International aid through the UNHCR

Since its establishment in 1950, the UNHCR has been the main force behind international aid for refugees. It has set standards for rushed emergency aid to help the humanitarian crisis as well as built shelters for millions of refugees in regions that have faced major political and humanitarian turbulence, such as Syria, South Sudan and Myanmar . The UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Framework[45] (CRRF) which was created in 2016, aimed to create sustainable solutions for enhancing refugee camps and strengthening international cooperation. However, political factors such as government policies, and funding cuts have countlessly affected these efforts . As of 2025, the UNHCR faces a global funding gap of over 40%[46] significantly reducing the attempts made for essential aid.

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[44] "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Part II - Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2025, www.unhcr.org/media/report-united-nations-high-commissioner-refugees-part-ii-global-compact-refugees.

[45] "The UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Framework - Google Search." *Google.com*, 2016, www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=The+UNHCR%E2%80%99s+Comprehensive+refugee+framework&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025.

[46] "Underfunding | UNHCR." *UNHCR*, 2025, www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/planning-funding-and-results/underfunding.

Resettlement and relocation programs

Resettlement and relocation programs have changed the way the UN handles large numbers of refugees. Programs such as the European Union's 2015 Emergency Relocation Mechanism[47] and the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)[48] both aimed to distribute emergency and essential aid to refugees more evenly across all nations. These were distributed through monitoring systems such as aerial surveillance, which were monitored by UN agencies such as the IOM, in order to not burden directly affected countries and foster regional cooperation. In Africa, countries like Uganda have created policies that allow refugees to live in better conditions and have access to education within local communities. A few of these policies include granting refugees the right to work and permission to access public schools and health services. States allowing refugees to work and enroll children in schools, creates a stable, long term life for the refugees. Such programs have helped immensely vulnerable refugees. However, they continue to remain limited and only around 1% of the world's refugees are resettled annually. Many countries have tightened fostering policies in recent years due to security concerns. This includes stricter background checks which makes it harder for refugees to be accepted into resettlement and relocation programs. Because these programs primarily rely on states voluntarily accepting refugees into the community, strict policies have reduced the number of available places.

Non-Govermental Organization (NGO) efforts

Non-Governmental Organizations are also another significant factor in addressing the ongoing issues. NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC)[49] and Save the Children[50] have helped to cover urgent needs and their projects and actions often focus on running healthcare delivery and education programs in extremely crowded refugee

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[47] European Commission. "Relocation: EU Solidarity in Practice." *Home-Affairs.ec.europa.eu*, home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/relocation-eu-solidarity-practice_en.

[48] USCIS. "The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) Consultation and Worldwide Processing Priorities | USCIS." *Www.uscis.gov*, 6 Aug. 2021, www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/usrap.

[49] "International Rescue Committee (IRC)." *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*, Rescue.org, 2019, www.rescue.org.

[50] "Save the Children International." *Save the Children International*, www.savethechildren.net.

camps across Africa and South-East Asia. For example, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) has provided essential medical aid in overcrowded camps in countries such as Bangladesh and Greece and similarly, the IRC has helped for resolving multiple issues which are linked to education programs for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. However, many NGOs face severe funding problems as most of the time, there's a lack of funding and security risks. Security risks affect their efforts because staff and volunteers may be unable to access certain areas due to ongoing conflict.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Strengthening international cooperation

In order to elevate conditions in refugee camps and detention centers, cooperation between countries is indispensable. Governments must commit to 'collective burden sharing'[51] which is the distribution of costs and responsibilities among members of a group to achieve a goal and will be further guided by the Global Compact on Refugees (2018). Partnerships can help promote a fairer distribution of refugees and more efficient management of humanitarian aid. This works by allowing countries to share their responsibilities, for instance, some LEDCs could offer support, and the MEDCs can offer funding or others could provide resettlement programs.

Improving basic services in refugee camps

Another possible solution would be to improve basic services in refugee camps . That's where governments and aid groups come in; The government and specific aid groups need to focus on building sturdy homes and not just temporary alternatives through partnerships with private and public sector companies to ensure sustainability. This can be done by setting clear construction actions and providing funding and technical support from both the government and UN agencies. Moreover, we can propose possible solutions for waste management that are effective and don't fall apart after a span of a few months and remain effective in the long run. Implementing this by

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[51] "NATO's Collective Burden Sharing - United States Department of State." *United States Department of State*, 26 June 2024, 2021-2025.state.gov/briefings-foreign-press-centers/fpc-nato-series/nato-collective-burden-sharing/.

creating proper sewage and recycling systems. Schools matter too, especially for children, education gives people options and builds up the whole community.

The best results usually come when local NGOs and people volunteering in these camps and detention centers get involved. People and NGOs can help create jobs which provide essential income for financial security and are extremely crucial because they allow refugees to meet basic needs. These actions can be done through educational workshops or campaigns which will be run by individuals who are providing off the job training to ensure each person gets trained effectively.

Increasing funding for Humanitarian agencies

Multiple humanitarian agencies like the UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs face severe funding shortages that decrease their ability to respond effectively to the crisis. Moreover, the UN could monitor the distribution of aid on the ground and conduct risk assessments which will ensure that funds won't be misused. Additionally, the international community could develop financing mechanisms through public sector and private sector partnerships for higher income nations which will be managed by the government. Encouraging greater involvement from the private sector and several other organisations can ensure the long term sustainability of relief programs.

Addressing unwilling governments

In many cases, governments are unwilling to help due to corruption which worsens the conditions. Political leaders may restrict aid access or block UN agencies like the IOM or UNHCR from entering which prevents assistance from reaching the people who need it most. Corruption can also lead to mismanagement of supplies, meaning that food and medicine will fail to reach refugee camps. In an attempt to resolve this, aid should be delivered through neutral international bodies such as NGOs, IOM or the UNHCR as mentioned above. They operate independently and help establish monitoring missions, and strict reporting systems can help ensure that aid avoids political crossfire and reaches refugees who have been caught in between political tension. Additionally, the UN can create humanitarian pathways which are protected routes that guarantee safe passage for aid so that assistance is not blocked or manipulated by governments.

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