



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



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## **I. Letter from the Secretary-General**

*Distinguished Participants and Esteemed Advisors,*

It is with great honour and excitement that I welcome you all to the very first edition of IDATRAIN 2026. Every meaningful journey begins with a first step, and this year, we are proud to take that step together. IDATRAIN has been created with the vision of bringing young minds together in an environment where knowledge, experience, communication, and personal development can grow side by side.

In a world that is constantly changing, the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and approach challenges with confidence has never been more valuable. IDATRAIN aims to provide more than a training experience; it is an opportunity for participants to discover their strengths, challenge their perspectives, learn from one another, and develop skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

As the first edition of IDATRAIN, this event represents the beginning of a new chapter. We hope to create an atmosphere where every participant feels encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, make connections, and most importantly, embrace the learning process. Whether you are taking your first steps into this community or already have experience in academic and social activities, IDATRAIN welcomes you with the same purpose: to learn, grow, and inspire.

Throughout the programme, our academic and organisational teams have worked carefully to create an engaging and meaningful experience. Every session, activity, and discussion has been designed to encourage active participation and personal development while allowing you to connect with people who share your curiosity and ambition.

On behalf of the entire IDATRRAIN 2026 academic and organisational teams, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to bringing this first edition to life. What you are experiencing today is the result of countless hours of preparation, dedication, and teamwork, and we are truly honoured to begin this journey with you. I hope that when IDATRRAIN 2026 comes to an end, you leave not only with new knowledge and skills, but also with new perspectives, meaningful connections, and the confidence to take your next step forward. As we open the first chapter of IDATRRAIN together.

I hope this will be the beginning of a journey that continues to inspire, challenge, and empower many more young minds in the years to come. Welcome to IDATRRAIN 2026. Let us make the first edition one to remember.

*Sincerely,*

*Gökçe Boğa*

*Secretary General of IDATRRAIN 2026*

## II. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

*Distinguished Delegates,*

Welcome to the 2026 IDATRAN Conference!

I hope that you will have a fruitful, engaging, and, most importantly, fun time. This year will bring a new version of the conference you all know (and hopefully love!). I would like to thank you for joining us and for taking the time to read this study guide. Great job! The agenda item of this committee, "Balancing National Security Concerns with the Protection of Refugee Rights in Contemporary Displacement Crises," is an especially modern issue that affects many nations. It is an issue that lies at the intersection of politics, migration, national security, displacement, and war. With recent escalations in the Middle East, the rapid advancement of technology, and the rise of far-right movements, this issue is placing increasing pressure on governments and international organizations around the world.

We specifically chose this agenda item so that you can debate and find solutions to one of the most pressing issues of our time. Throughout the committee, you will be faced with difficult questions: How can states protect their citizens while respecting the rights of refugees? How can governments prevent security threats without unfairly targeting displaced people? And, perhaps most importantly, where should the international community draw the line between national sovereignty and international responsibility?

There will be no simple answers to these questions. As delegates, your task is not merely to defend the interests of your respective countries but to approach the issue with diplomacy, creativity, and a willingness to compromise. I encourage you to look beyond the most obvious solutions and consider the practical realities faced by both refugee-receiving states and displaced populations.

I wholeheartedly believe that each and every one of you will be engaged throughout the committee. Do not be afraid to challenge existing ideas, propose unconventional solutions, or respectfully disagree with your fellow delegates. Some of the best moments in MUN come from debates that force us to reconsider our own positions.

I would like to thank our Secretary-General Gökçe Boğa for her amazing leadership and support and this committee's chairboard member Doruk Kuzu for his great work on the study guide and interest in the topic!

I remember how anxious I was for my first MUN and all the ones after, and no matter how you do, don't forget to have fun! Remember that MUN is not only about winning.

awards or giving the best speech. It is about learning how international diplomacy works, meeting new people, and, hopefully, leaving the conference with a better understanding of the world around us. I wish you all the best of luck, and I look forward to seeing the debates, speeches, and resolutions you will create.

See you at the conference!

*Sincerely,*

*Ali Gürkan Gülçür*

*Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

### **III. Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a UN agency dedicated to protecting refugees, displaced persons, and stateless people around the world. Established in 1950, the UNHCR works with governments and international organizations to provide humanitarian assistance, ensure the protection of refugees' rights, and seek long-term solutions to displacement.

In this committee, you will address the complex challenges surrounding forced displacement, including refugee protection, border security, humanitarian assistance, and the integration or resettlement of displaced populations. You are expected to balance national security concerns with international obligations to protect human rights and uphold the principles of international refugee law.

### **IV. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

Forced displacement has become one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of the modern world. Conflicts, persecution, political instability, and other crises have forced millions of people to flee their homes in search of safety. While states have a legitimate responsibility to protect their citizens and secure their borders, these measures must also respect the fundamental rights and dignity of refugees.

The international community therefore faces a difficult balance: preventing threats such as terrorism, human trafficking, and organized crime without treating refugees as security threats themselves. This agenda aims to examine how states can strengthen national security while maintaining their obligations to protect refugees and uphold international human rights and refugee law.

### **V. Key Definitions**

#### ***Refugee:***

As defined by the UNHCR (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), a refugee or a group of refugees may be used to refer to a person or a group of people fleeing, often unwillingly, their country/region due to dangerous conditions such as ongoing wars, political violence, persecution due to their ethnic/religious status or

famines.

As defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”

### ***Internally Displaced Person (IDP):***

According to the UN Human Rights High Commissioner's Office and the document presented to the High Commission on the 14th of February 1968, IDP or IDPs are people who, due to circumstances like violence, persecution, and human-made disasters, have forcibly fled their original place of residence. Their key distinction from refugees is the fact that the place that they have fled to is still within their country's borders, therefore making them an "internal refugee."

### ***Stateless Person:***

A stateless person is a person without the citizenship of a recognized state or lack thereof, with their citizenship being in a state that is not recognized internationally.

This situation may occur when a person is born in a disputed territory or a non-state actor. It may also occur when a country's government chooses to enact various laws, after which the targeted group would be exposed to various negative actions while being technically exempt from that country's various laws or its constitutional protections, if any were there.

However, aside from political reasons, a person could also be considered stateless due to other factors such as insufficient administration capacity of a nation.

Many countries could fit into this category, such as extremely densely populated countries such as Bangladesh, which simply does not at the moment have the capacity to conduct a proper census.

This aforementioned administrative strain goes both ways. When a person suffers from institutional under-capacity, they would themselves be unable to take the national steps in order to obtain any sort of legal document that can identify them as a citizen or a nation, creating a deadlock.

***Non-Refoulement:***

Non-refoulement is an essential human right that prohibits nations from returning the refugees that they have received, regardless of their status as a legal or illegal immigrant within the country that they have fled to, provided that upon their deportation, they would face dangerous living conditions or face some sort of repercussions from the country that they have fled from.

While many countries have gone as far as interpreting “unfavorable living conditions” as undesirable socioeconomic conditions, all countries are nevertheless required to uphold the basic conditions established by the International Human Rights Charter and have subsequently established various systems and laws that protect these aforementioned refugees.

## ***National Security:***

'National security' is a broad term used to refer to any actions or situations that concern a country's security. This could refer to measures implemented by governments to combat a crisis or situations perceived by authorities as detrimental to their nation's security.

In this specific case, this refers to the concern that refugees may bring unforeseen risks along with them while crossing the border into another nation.

This happens sometimes when countries argue that migrants might constrict socio-economic opportunities of their country due to them taking up jobs and welfare funds. Public opinion also influences this as well, with various protests in history directly contributing to stricter immigration laws worldwide.

In another example associated with conflicts, a former ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) fighter named Shamima Begum left the UK upon the formation of it in order to participate in their cause, citing her religious status and duties. In the wake of their atrocities committed and their subsequent destruction in 2016, she was refused entry back into the United Kingdom, with her citizenship swiftly revoked, with the government denying her entry likely due to their concerns surrounding isolated cells that ISIS has left around the world. The official reason cited was "for the public good."

## **VI. Historical Background**

### **A. Evolution of International Refugee Protection**

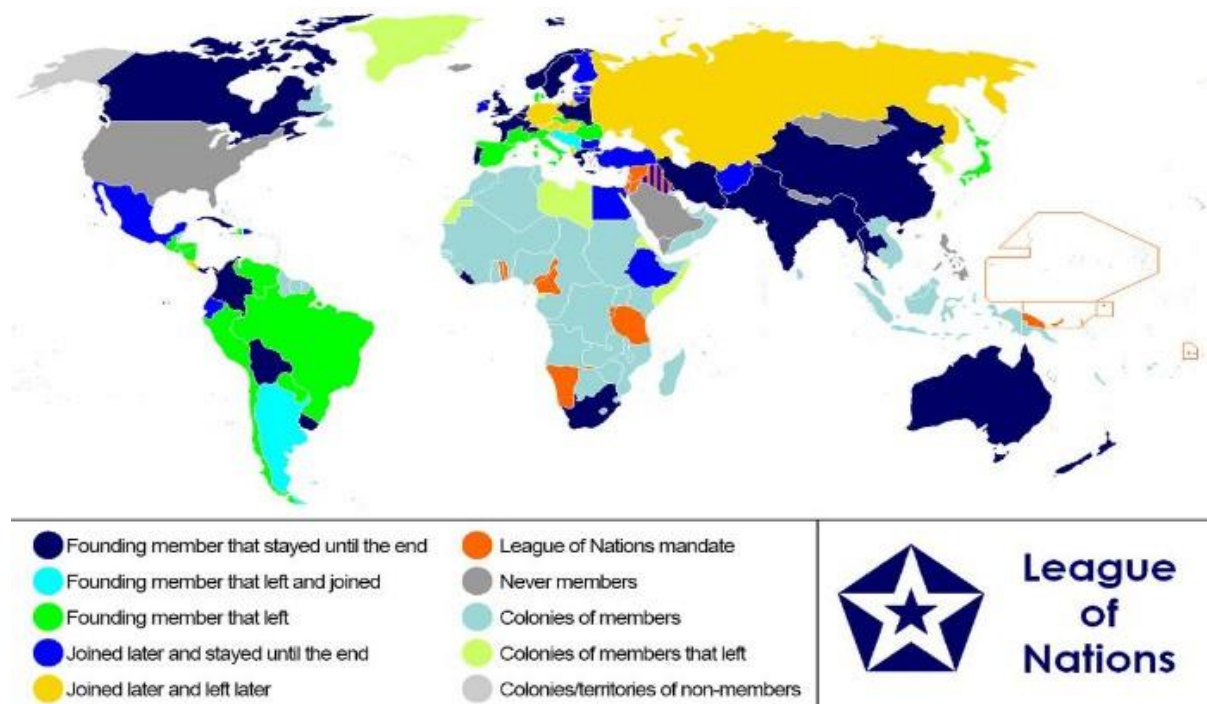
Multi-national systems designed to protect refugees date back to 1921, even before the UN existed. Instead of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Refugees was established in the aforementioned year by the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations.

In the year 1921, in response to the newfound wave of refugees that came about in Europe after the new border changes stipulated by the 1919 Versailles treaty following the end of WW1 and the subsequent Russian revolution and the deadly civil war that followed suit, the League of Nations would appoint a Norwegian explorer, Scientist and diplomat Fridtjof Nansen to the newly established position of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

Fridtjof Nansen's attention would be focused on mostly the Russian refugees fleeing the Russian Civil War, and he went on to create the Nansen passport, a legal document which granted refugees a way of moving around other nations in the case of not being able to return to their nations of origin and, in some cases, even allowed those refugees to settle and work in other countries.

While his works were ambitious and innovative, they were ultimately bottlenecked by the League's inability to properly handle international affairs and incidents such as the 1931 invasion of Manchuria by Japan and the 1935 Italian invasion of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and would capitulate and subsequently de facto seize operations after the 1939 Winter War between the USSR and Finland in the face of a rapidly collapsing world order.

Nonetheless, the passport would be issued to approximately 450,000 refugees by the time it seized production in 1942, marking a remarkable advancement in international cooperation between nations.



In 1948, the newly established United Nations would adopt the UDHR, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This milestone of diplomacy and human rights contained various articles covering a variety of topics, including basic rights free from any form of religious, race, and gender persecution; the condemnation of slavery; and, most notably in this case, Article 14, which declares that "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution," establishing a strong framework for any future efforts that would be made in these areas.

The next milestone came in 1951, in the form of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which would further lay frameworks for the modern refugee protection protocols that we have today. It was, however, limited by the fact that it was mainly

drafted to address the catastrophic humanitarian disaster that was WW2, with the articles only covering refugees that were affected by events prior to the signing of the document, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1951. In addition, the document also only covered areas within Europe.

With these limitations considered, the document would soon begin to decay in terms of its capacity. As the United Kingdom and the French Republic had to address their economies, which were severely devastated by the scars of war. And soon, these two nations, along with a few other minor colonial nations like Italy and Belgium, would be forced to "de-colonize."

further exacerbating the already worsening conditions in their colonies.

Eventually, the UN would adopt the 1967 refugee protocol, a more comprehensive document,



in order to address the growing concerns. The document was much more comprehensive compared to its predecessor, owing to the now cemented new world order.

While not being a complete replacement of the previous 1951 document, it nevertheless brought significant changes to that

document. Due to that time's ongoing chaotic decolonization, the document had the 1951 convention's limitation on timeframe and geography removed.

## **B. Major Contemporary Displacement Crises:**

### ***Sudan:***

The instability of Sudan dates all the way back to the beginning of Omar Al Bashir's reign, beginning in 1993. With the war over, South Sudan lasted until 2011 with their independence. With so many years in conflict, the severely destabilized Sudan fell into another civil war in 2023, with renewed intensity. Since then, over 13 million Sudanese citizens have since become refugees, with internal refugee camps in the Darfur Region reaching inhumane conditions due to repeated reprisals by the Rapid Support Forces, the anti-government faction in the civil war.

### ***Venezuela:***

Since the Bolivarian revolution of the 1990s, the United States and the European Union have placed various sanctions on the Fifth Republican Movement, the regime of the country. This has hit the economy of Venezuela, one which was heavily reliant on crude and refined oil exports, across all sectors. Combined with abysmal results created by the economic policies of their successive governments, the inflation and the inability to access basic health services

by the population have created a severe refugee crisis, causing more than 6.9 million people to flee into other nations.

### *Syria:*

Democratic and fundamentalist elements that were suppressed under the Assad regime would rise up in 2011, culminating in the Syrian civil war, one of the most complex and confusing civil wars in modern history. The government forces would fight fiercely with the rebel forces, such as the Free Syrian Army and the Syrian Democratic Forces. And Hayat Tahir Al-Sham. During this time of perceived weakness, a group of ultra-fundamentalists called ISIS (an acronym for the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq) would rise up in the region between Syria and Iraq, which was going through a similar civil war of its own at the time. This group would commit unspeakable atrocities across the territories that it controlled, further deepening the already terrible conditions in Syria.

While the government forces seemed to have defeated much of the rebel groups by 2020, the 4-year stalemate would be broken in 2024, with the rebels' forces launching a decisive offensive that toppled the Assad regime.

During this period, refugees, totaling approximately 10 million, would flee into neighboring areas. Over 3 million Syrians fled into Turkey, who would suffer from the influx of such a high amount of refugees in the form of political instability and violence.

In addition, the Kurdish militias and various other Syrian politicians would found the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, also known as Rojava, as an area of stability in the face of the rapidly deteriorating situation in Syria.

This newly established decentralized government would begin to take refugees in from Syria and was remarkably successful in providing basic amenities such as food, electricity, and water to those who arrived within their borders.

Regardless, Syria remains a brutal example of a major displacement crisis, with the ripples of its civil war reaching the whole region of the Middle East and beyond.



*Clockwise From Top Left: A Sudanese Armed Forces Soldier on a ruined highway, a Syrian Kurdish Fighter looking upon the devastated town of Kobani, a chart about the suboptimal economic conditions of Venezuela, a struggling Venezuelan man speaking with a UNHCR employee*

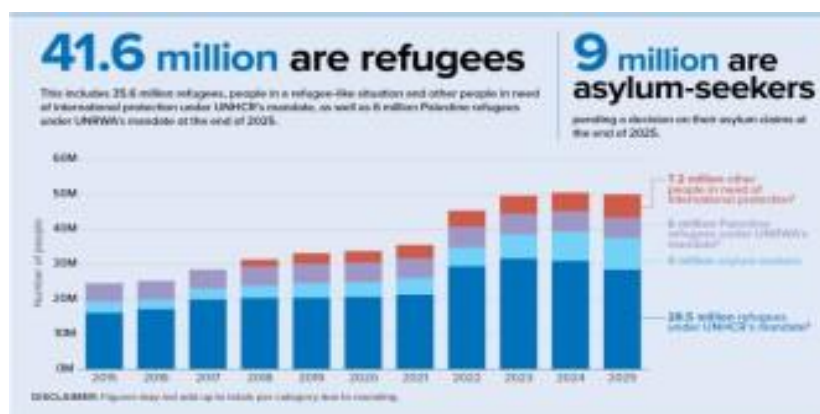
## VII. Current Situation

### A. Global Refugee Statistics and Trends

At the end of 2025, there were approximately 41.6 million refugees, with nations like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Syria making up around 25% of this number.

However, those countries at the end of 2025 contributed to a total sum of around 4.5 million in return for refugees.

Most notably Syria and Afghanistan, who were able to return their nations to a somewhat stable state during the recent few years.



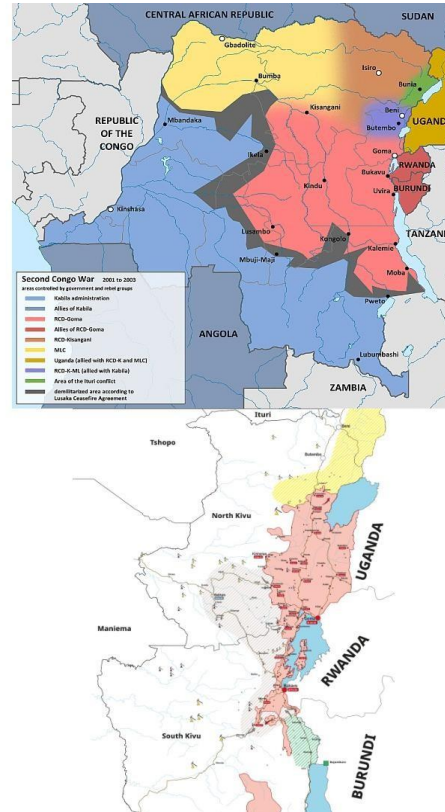
However, the case of DRC is still somewhat complicated. Their number of total refugees totalled 3.6 million in 2025. This is due to the escalating war in their eastern provinces, which has escalated into a regional war

with countries like Uganda and Rwanda involving themselves to varying degrees.

This conflict's roots can be traced back to the First Congo War, more commonly referred to as "Africa's World War." During the year conflict that encompassed much of the African continent below the Sub-Saharan region beginning in 1996, the DRC government under Laurent-Desire Kabila clashed with Ugandan and Rwandan-backed rebels, resulting in animosity between their small African nations and the population giant that DRC is today.

Since then, the unfortunate combination of a war-torn economy and various insurgencies that sprang up before, during, and after the First Congo War, most notable one being the Katanga Rebellion, the country has found itself unable to support its enormous population of over 120 million. This has since created a hostile environment for anyone living in the country, especially far-flung eastern provinces that the Congolese government has little to no control over.

This inability to satisfy populations in those remote areas has led to them fleeing into other nations that are already struggling with refugees, such as Uganda, which already hosts over 800,000 South Sudanese refugees.



*Clockwise From Top Left: Laurent-Désiré Kabila, The leader of the DR Congo government from 1997 to 2001. The First Congo War, 1996-1997. The March 23 Rebellion of 2025. A Congolese refugee camp in Goma.*

## B. Security Challenges Associated with Forced Migration

One of the most pressing issues associated with refugees, wherever or whoever they might be, is the national security of the country they flee into.

Particularly in the Western world. Namely, the United States and the EU, this risk posed by migrants who flee into them in search of a better life has caused governments across them to give different justifications for their policies.

Namely, these are:

### Infrastructural Concerns

Even though most countries in the European Union and the Nation of United States are all developed to a certain respectable standard, most of them are unwilling to take more refugees in because their infrastructure is, more often than not, not designed to handle such a large and unpredictable influx of migrants. This has caused nations like Poland and, by extension, the Visegrad Group in the EU (Slovakia, Czechia, Poland, and Hungary) to declare that migrants are a risk to their security because they would unnecessarily strain their existing

infrastructure and economic balance.

### **Economic Concerns**

Although not as direct and easily framed as the previous point, nevertheless some nations have expressed concern at the fact that migrants might pose economic risk to their nations. This mostly comes from the concern that migrants might restrict employment opportunities for the locals already living there by undercutting local workers in wages they would never work with, thereby locking them out of primary and secondary sector jobs, often making up 30% of jobs in a developed country. Although this might be true to a degree, its credibility has been diminished by nations who use it as a political talking and rallying point.

### **Political Concerns**

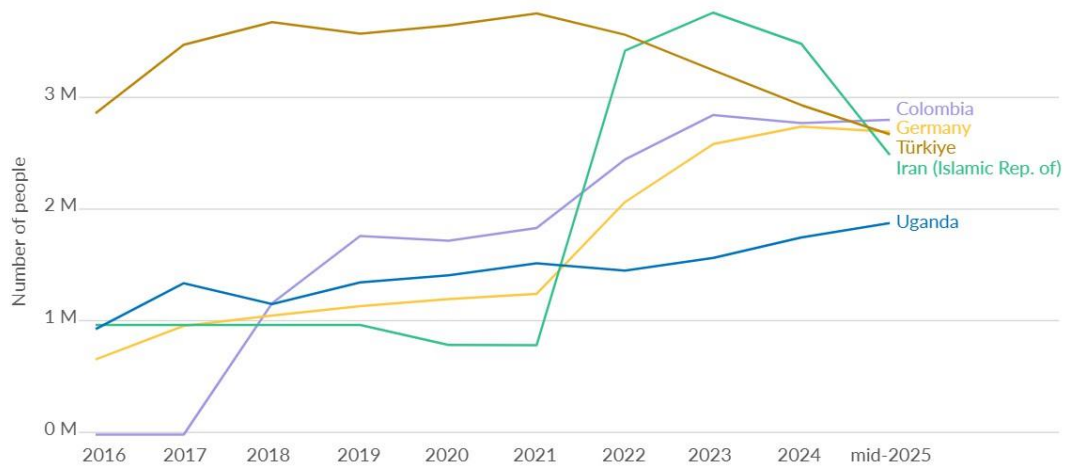
Another concern raised by countries around the world is the political implications for taking in refugees. Sometimes, the fleeing refugees might be a member or an active participant of a political or religious organization in their country of origin and, in theory, might continue to try and work or influence the country they have taken refuge in. This reasoning has been applied to mostly refugees of Islamic origin. Those who have been a victim of terrorism acts by Muslims have particularly grown to distrust them since then, such as Germany and The United States. Historical examples also exist. During WW2, the FDR administration had detained approximately 120 thousand Japanese-Americans who migrated to the USA in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in "relocation camps," citing political concerns. Similarly, the Suharto administration of Indonesia persecuted Chinese Indonesians due to their alleged association with the Communist People's Republic of China.

## **C. Humanitarian Challenges Facing Host States and Refugees**

While the humanitarian conditions of refugees taken in are not among the top concerns of most developed countries around the world, the same unfortunately cannot be said for the developing nations that are taking in large amounts of refugees.

In fact, according to UNHCR, between the top refugee-hosting nations worldwide, Germany (using GDP per capita as a metric) was considered to be a developed nation.

Figure 5 | Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by major country of asylum | 2016 – mid-2025



Nations on the above, most notably Iran and Turkey, have recently recorded notable drops in their total refugee numbers. With the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan bringing a controversial but decently stable order to the region and the Syrian civil war's end thanks to the opposition offensives of 2024 contributing primarily, respectively.

However, while the regime in Iran was at least somewhat open to improving relations with the Taliban regime of Afghanistan, Pakistan, on the other hand, has strongly opposed the regime since its takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 and, as of 2026, has been in a state of war against Afghanistan.

While Pakistan was supportive of the Taliban since their early days, their relationship has since apparently broken down. Regardless, according to UNHCR sources, these refugees have little to no consistent access to basic necessities such as food and water.

let alone any sort of educational or medical facilities. Pakistan's displeasure towards the Taliban and their over-militarization and seemingly left little funds or sympathy for these refugees.



Colombia, on the other hand, represents a different approach to handling the incoming humanitarian collapse of a large-scale refugee-hosting nation. With their largest refugee group, Venezuelans' home nation being right next to their own country, they have faced the brunt of the millions fleeing Venezuela and have subsequently taken in more than 2.5 million of

these refugees.

Over 9 million additional internally displaced people due to cartel activity and poverty have not helped assuage the situation. Venezuelans have to share what little resources the government can provide in these dire times with the other 9 million IDPs. In addition, the political instability resulting from the approaching 2026 election has also contributed to decreased security around these refugees. To combat these issues, the Colombian government has since resorted to slowly integrating them into their society. Progress has still been described as slow by observers, with the new Colombian president, Aberlado De La Espriella, notably being in favour of withdrawing from international bodies such as the UN and the ICC.

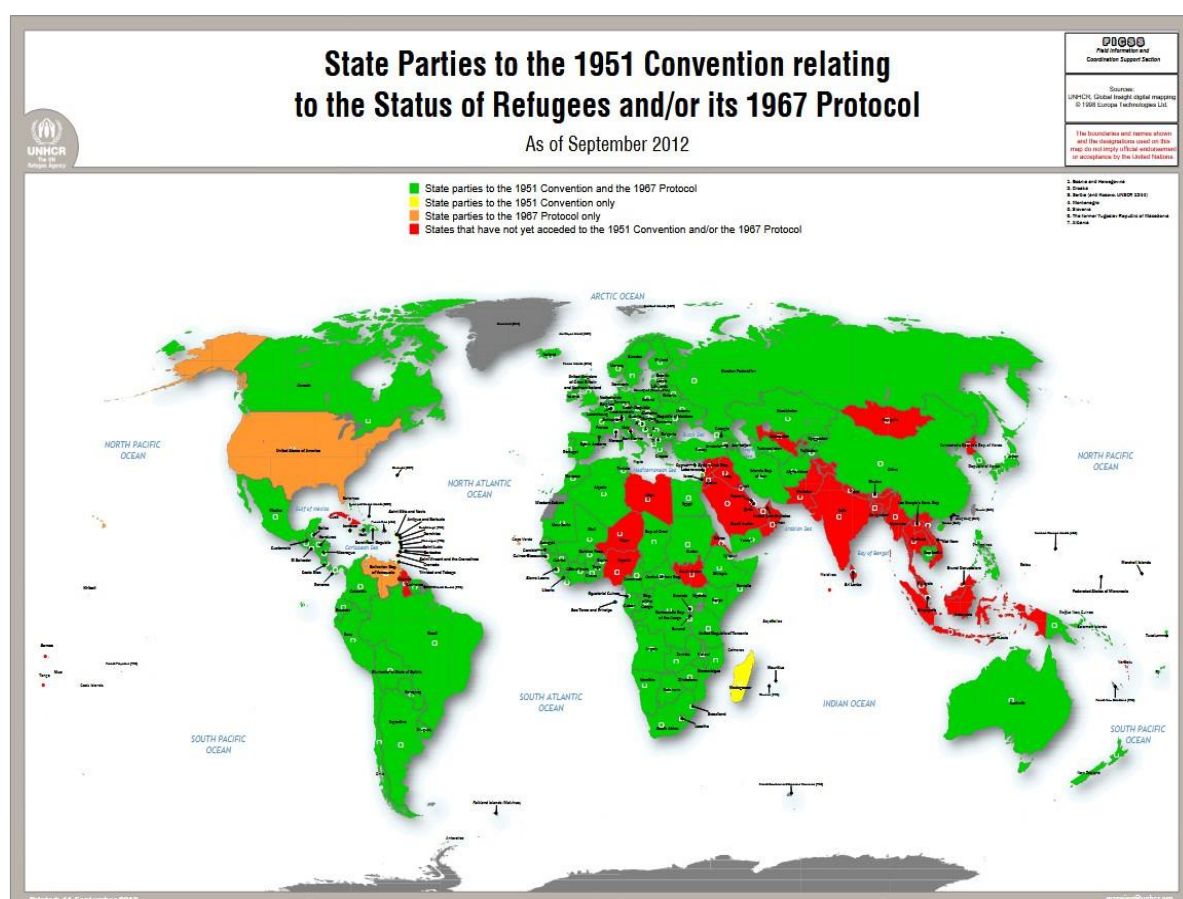


*Clockwise from top right: Colombian President Aberlado De La Espriella, a Venezuelan refugee camp in Bogota, Pakistani-Afghan border incidents 2022-2023, and Afghan refugees in Pakistan.*

## VIII. Legal Framework

### A. 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol

Grounded in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries, the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted in 1951, is the centrepiece of international refugee protection today. The Convention entered into force on 22 April 1954 and it has been subject to only one amendment in the form of a 1967 Protocol, which removed the geographic and temporal limits of the 1951 Convention. The 1951 Convention, as a post-Second World War instrument, was originally limited in scope to persons fleeing events occurring before 1 January 1951 and within Europe. The 1967 Protocol removed these limitations and thus gave the Convention universal coverage. It has since been supplemented by refugee and subsidiary protection regimes in several regions, as well as via the progressive development of international human rights law. The 1951 Refugee Convention was primarily held because of the aftermath of World War II, which displaced many Europeans, Jews and other ethnic groups. It applied only to those who became refugees before 1951, and only to those stemming from Europe. The 1967 Protocol extended the convention's principles to all refugees worldwide.



*Map of State Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol(as of September 2012)*

The 1951 Refugee Convention consolidated previous international instruments relating to refugees and provided the most concise and comprehensive codification of the rights of refugees at the international level. A refugee, according to the Convention, is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

The 1951 Convention *recommended* governments take the necessary measures for the protection of the refugee's family, especially with a view to:

(1) Ensuring that the unity of the refugee's family is maintained, particularly in cases where the head of the family has fulfilled the necessary conditions for admission to a particular country,

(2) The protection of refugees who are minors, in particular unaccompanied children and girls, with special reference to guardianship and adoption.

It also *recommended* that governments continue to receive refugees in their territories and that they act in concert in a true spirit of international cooperation in order that these refugees may find asylum and the possibility of resettlement.

The most important principle of the Convention was the principle of "non-refoulement." Refoulment means the sending back of refugees back to a place that puts their lives and freedom at risk. One might find concerning and slightly amusing that most modern European far-right politics is pivoted upon, solely, on the topic of "remigration," which *is* refoulment. The 1951 Refugee Convention is legally binding, but many politicians argue that their "to-be subjects of remigration" do not fit the definition of "refugee," or that sending them back to their countries is not refoulement, because it does not put their lives at risk.

## **B. International Human Rights Law**

International Human Rights Law (IHRL) is a part of international law that focuses on protecting the basic rights and freedoms of people. It sets rules that states are expected to follow and creates responsibilities for governments to respect and protect the rights of people living under their authority.

The modern human rights system was largely developed after World War II. The creation of the United Nations and the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 were important steps in this process. The UDHR states that all people are entitled to basic rights such as the right to life, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and protection from torture and discrimination. Although the declaration itself is not a legally binding treaty, it has strongly influenced international human rights law.

Two important legally binding treaties are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The ICCPR protects rights such as freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, and the right to life. The ICESCR focuses more on rights such as education, healthcare, work, and an adequate standard of living. Along with the UDHR, these documents form an important part of the international human rights system.

IHRL requires states to both avoid violating people's rights and take steps to protect them. For example, a government must not use torture or arbitrarily imprison someone. At the same time, it may also have to take action to protect people from human rights violations committed by others and provide ways for victims to seek justice. Human rights law can also apply during armed conflicts. In these situations, it exists alongside International Humanitarian Law (IHL). While IHRL focuses broadly on protecting people's rights, IHL specifically deals with the conduct of parties during armed conflict and the protection of civilians and other people affected by war.

There are several international and regional systems that monitor human rights. These include UN treaty bodies and regional courts such as the European Court of Human Rights. However, international human rights mechanisms usually work alongside national legal systems rather than completely replacing them.

Overall, the purpose of IHRL is to ensure that governments cannot treat the protection of human rights as only an internal matter. States have responsibilities under international law, and violations of fundamental rights can become an issue of international concern.

### **C. Principle of Non-Refoulement**

The principle of non-refoulement is an essential framework that protects refugees from being returned by their host country to their country of origin, provided that there is concrete evidence that shows that these individuals will face possible life-threatening consequences

there. These consequences extend to but are not limited to religious, ethnic, and gender persecution, torture, and any sort of considerably far-reaching human rights violations.

The principle of non-refoulement is explicitly included and enshrined in the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)* and the *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons From Forced Disappearance (ICPPED)* internationally. Regionally speaking, two notable examples include the *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention of Torture* and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*.

Multiple human rights courts, both international and regional, have implicated that this principle is a basic right that should be upheld by all, flowing from their obligations to the various international treaties, conventions, and charters. Various committees around the world regularly receive petitions concerning this topic.

As for the intricate details of this principle, it is a principle that prevents countries from returning the refugees that they are hosting to their countries of origin, provided that there is substantial evidence presented that paints a clear picture of the repercussions that those refugees might face should they return home. This includes all sorts of human rights violations, any form of persecution and any form of ill-treatment.

Additionally, its scope also extends to all those who fall under the refugee category, regardless of their race, gender, nationality, and ethnicity. It also includes all the territories that the host country has jurisdiction of, including autonomous regions, occupied territories, and client states. Therefore, the principle is not limited to only the "core" territory of the host nation but also the entirety of that nation's *de jure* territories.

While international law, at its bare minimum, includes the aforementioned inhumane conditions in its interpretation of *substantial risks*, some nations have gone as far as including other more detailed conditions in this interpretation. This includes the possible artificial or natural economic inequalities that they may face and the unfair treatments they might face in the form of reduced access to basic supplies like food and water, lack of basic social infrastructure and institutions such as schools, hospitals and various other social services such as policing and firefighting. Nevertheless, most nations have been encouraged and recommended on the topic of creating mechanisms to address these possible scenarios in which they have to host a number of refugees. In addition, they also should, in the case of an emergency involving refugees, closely cooperate with UN agencies.

## **D. Regional Frameworks**

While international frameworks concerning the protection of refugees exist, there is sometimes the need for regional frameworks that might include a region or a nation, as well. This might be due to the need for various nations to adopt customized frameworks to better suit their own unique situations or the result of a diplomatic treaty between nations, including articles about the protection/status of refugees, either as a secondary or primary article.

*The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* is an example of a large multinational institution adopting a mechanism to properly and formally integrate these international articles into itself. The Maastricht Treaty, the treaty that formally established the EU, is explicitly mentioned in the charter, as it states that the EU will properly respect established international frameworks regarding refugee safety and treatment.

The Charter itself also mentions the 1951 protocol, which was set in place by the UN to address the refugees and asylum seekers of WWII, and its subsequent significant addendum, the 1967 protocol, which removed the limitations regarding specific timeframes and groups of the previous protocol. This, along with the Union's relatively successful attempts at stabilizing major post-war major economies and the development of the ex-Warsaw Pact nations, has allowed the EU to become a top contender for those who seek asylum all around the world, alongside the US.

The *OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa*, signed in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, in 1969 and ratified in 1974, was another significant regional framework in this regard.

The chaotic decolonization that came after WWII was extremely chaotic, owing the severity of the situation to the near-melting statues of major colonial nations such as the UK, France, Belgium, Italy, and Portugal. The frictions caused by the economic disparities between African nations and their rich umbrella of different ideologies also played a huge role in the ultimate need for such a treaty. While the UK, despite being the largest player in the colonization of Africa, left Africa with very little resistance. Italy was also forced to hand over their colonies to the United Kingdom and France for their defeat in the war, in a peaceful manner. However, Portugal, for example, fought a brutal 14-year-long campaign from 1961 to 1974, coinciding with this treaty at its middle, against the independence movements across their colonies, namely Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau. This created a considerable exodus of refugees to their surrounding nations, further necessitating and highlighting the need for an *African* treaty to be signed in order to properly enforce and upkeep these internationally established rules regionally.

## IX. Stakeholders

### A. United Nations and the UNHCR

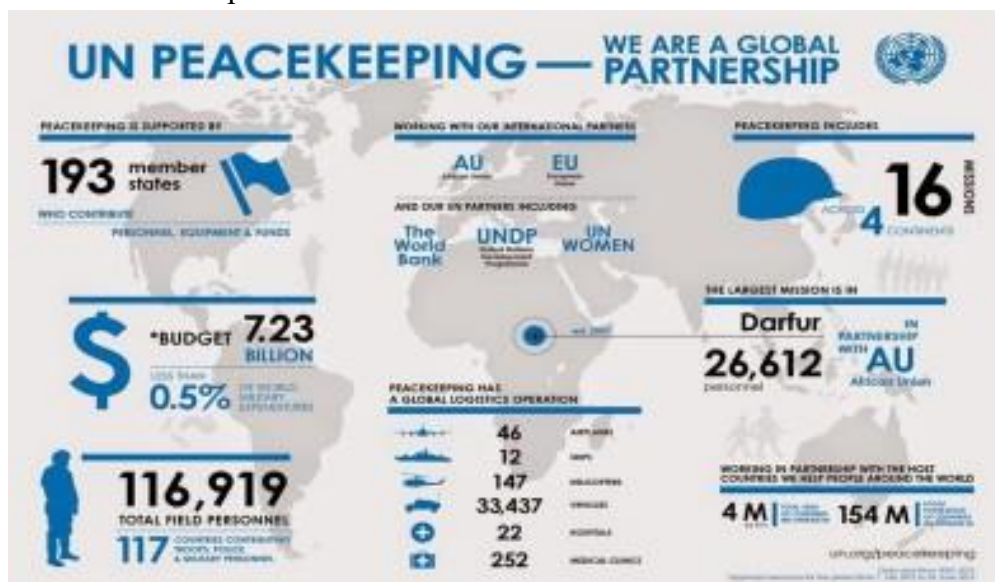
The United Nations, being the largest multipurpose international organization, is naturally the largest and the most involved actor and hence the largest "stakeholder". The United Nations, through its multiple agencies and commissions, serves as the primary uniting and driving force behind most multinational projects and operations.



In this case, UNHCR is the main agency responsible for dealing with multinational issues related to refugees.

UNHCR's assigned tasks include collecting and compiling data from affected regions into reports for organizations and the general public to access and utilize, sending task forces to crisis locations in order to assist and streamline the recovery of those regions and last but not least, collect, manage and distribute funds received via UN budget

allocations and public donations.



In addition, various UN peacekeeping missions with troops supplemented from different nations are also active in unstable and volatile regions of the world. Some of these regions

include but are not limited to Iraq, Pakistan, Haiti, Libya, and Cyprus. These missions to various parts of the world have thus far played a huge role in keeping order in these regions.

These missions have enforced various ceasefires and boundaries as well. Such examples include the *de facto* North Cyprus-Cyprus border on the island, with the border being monitored by UN force at all times.

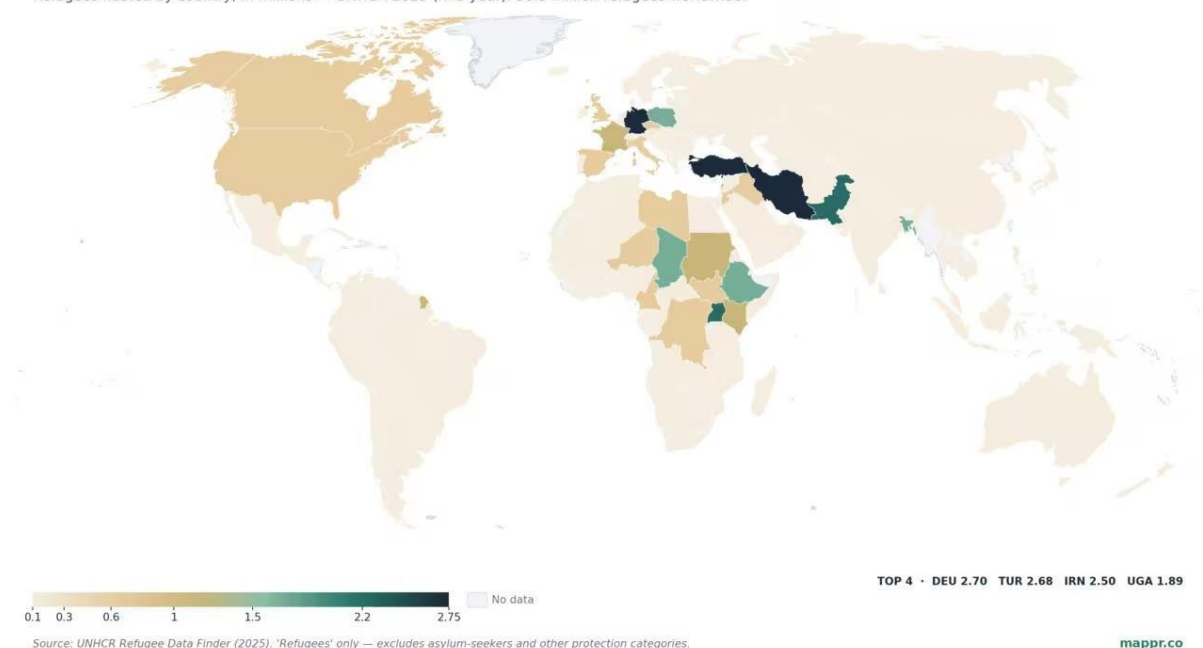
## B. Host States

Under various previously signed and ratified internationally-reaching declarations, charters, and treaties, all nations that host refugees must, at the bare minimum, present the refugees with an acceptable standard of living. This also means that they play a huge part in the cycle of a refugee's time as a refugee.

Sometimes, however, nations may not be able to fully support their refugee populations.

### Where the World's Refugees Are Hosted

Refugees hosted by country, in millions — UNHCR 2025 (mid-year). 30.5 million refugees worldwide.



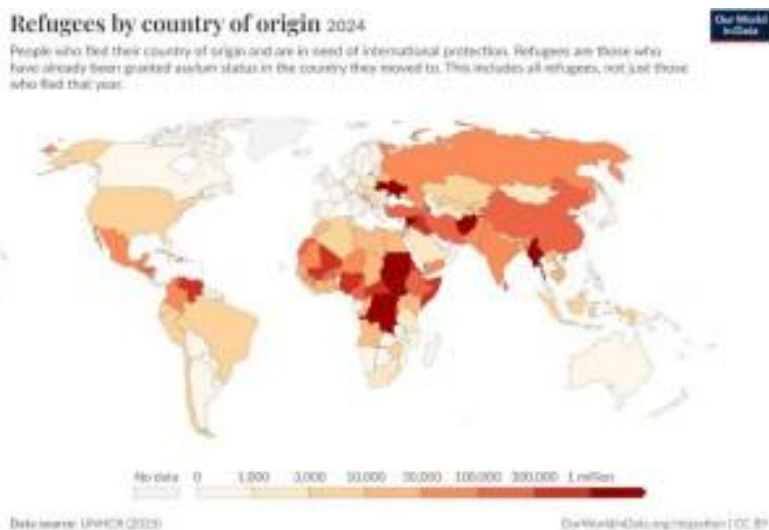
This means that the UN must play an active role in supporting and coordinating these international efforts in either returning these refugees to their state of origin or helping them settle in the nation which they have fled to.

Transparency and accountability are also important. While dealing with refugees, these host nations should be open to UN inspections if necessary and ideally should urge restraint if the use of force is necessary as not to harm their well-being.

## C. Countries of Origin

As the other primary actor in the cycle of a refugee's life as a refugee, it is primarily the

nations which they have originated from that are responsible for planning and organising their eventual return, if that does happen, that is. These nations ultimately bear the largest burden in our case. They have the task of not only escaping and leaving behind their period of instability and insecurity, but they also have to reconstruct and rebuild their nations in order to provide a better home for those who have fled.



The United Nations and the UNHCR often assist them in planning and applying, while other actors provide the large loans and bailout packages that the UN might not be able to provide. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), national banks of various economically strong countries and their private sector participants are examples.

#### **D. NGOs and Humanitarian Organizations**

The United Nations might be the largest active participant in dealing with international refugee issues, but it is far from the only one. Various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are active around the world, along with independent humanitarian organizations that supplement these efforts.

The most famous examples include:

##### **Amnesty International**

Founded in London on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1962, AI is one of the most well-known NGOs around the world. With around 10 million active members and over 3 million donors, their mission is not only to uphold and enshrine the Human Rights Declaration of 1948 but also to protect values of free speech and conscience while advocating for transparency and accountability among world governments. They have been involved in multiple investigations into alleged human rights violations around the world.

## **Save the Children**

Founded after the Great War in 1919, STC has gone on to become the largest of its kind, helping children and their families around the world. In 2025 alone, they have reached more than 37 million children, worked in more than 90 countries, responded to over 110 emergencies and have helped to push over 119 different policy changes.

## **Oxfam International**

Taking its name from Oxford Committee for Famine Relief that was founded in 1942 to support the German-occupied Greece, Oxfam International was founded in 1995 by a few different NGOs together. Originally mainly focused on Europe, they have since turned their attention and effort towards the developing countries. They are now working with over 77 nations to provide permanent solutions to poverty and to assist in rebuilding devastated economies.



## **E. Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

The core topic of every refugee crisis and the "stake." Refugees and asylum seekers represent the largest part of all situations involving any form of displacement. They are the main priority of every effort directed and managed by the involved actors, which makes them the first affected group of any policy change directed towards them, even before the governments can implement things like budgetary changes and resource allocations. It is in their core interest to be provided with basic necessities such as water, food and a roof to sleep under. Not only that, but a refugee group is also an invaluable source of feedback, allowing involved groups and international news agencies to learn and apply different strategies based on their experiences.

## **X. Case Studies**

### **A. Syrian Refugee Crisis**

Syria is one of the largest sources of refugees in the world today, having over 4.3 million refugees seeking asylum abroad. Much of this is owed to the devastating Syrian Civil War of 2011-2024 and a drought that devastated Syrian agriculture from 2006 to 2011. Therefore, it is necessary for us to analyze these two cases in order to understand their current situation.

#### ***Syrian Situation: Part I***

The conflict that has defined Syria's image in the world for the last decade can have its roots traced back to the Arab Spring.

The Arab Spring was a series of protests and revolutions that engulfed much of the Arab world. In the face of increasing inequality and authoritarianism, people from all age groups took to the streets and began to protest, accompanied by strikes. These protests would oust leaders in places such as Yemen and Tunisia but would also take down some of the most prominent Arab leaders. Examples include Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Moammar Gaddafi of Libya, and the case that relates to our topic: Bashar Al-Assad of Syria.

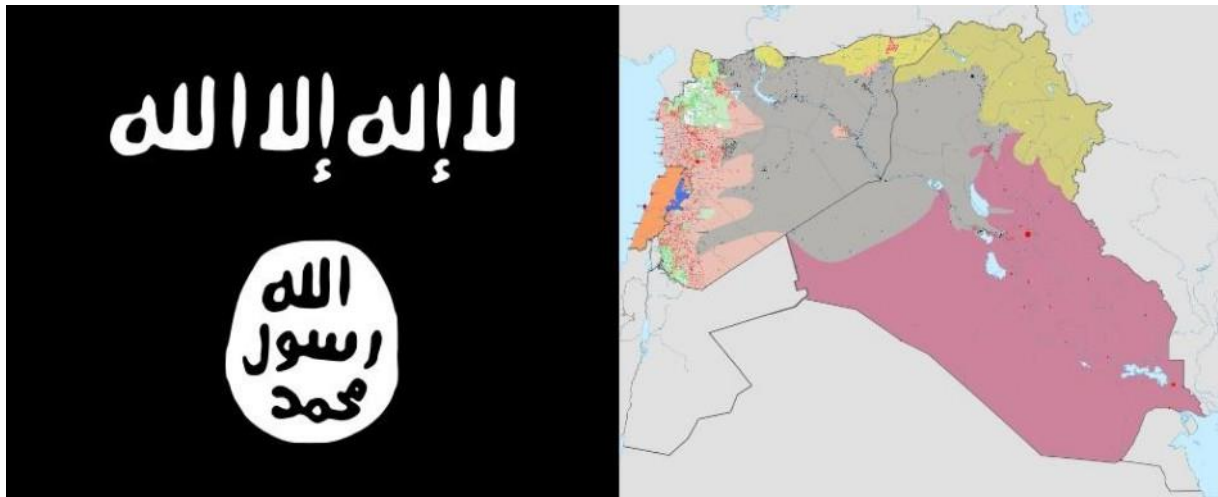


*Clockwise from top left: Mohammar Gaddafi: Leader of Libya, ousted in 2011 and subsequently killed by rebels. Ali Abdullah Saleh, president of Yemen, was ousted in 2012. Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt, was ousted in 2011 in a bloodless coup by the military. Bashar Al-Assad, president of Syria, was ousted in 2024 after the rebel counteroffensive. 2024 map of Syria and its factions right before the rebel counteroffensive.*

Already fairly unpopular due to this authoritarian government and repression, discontent against Assad exploded into the Syrian Civil War during the Arab Spring.

Supported by Russia, Assad's forces initially managed to hold the line against various rebel elements.

However, in 2013, a group of extremist Islam militants under Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi formed ISIS, otherwise known as the Islamic State. This group would bring death and destruction wherever it set foot in. And in their early days they would be able to capture significant territories from both Iraq and Syria, namely the cities of Mosul and Erbil in Iraq, along with cities such as Deir-Er-Zor and Raqqa in Syria. This group would cause significant amounts of people to flee into bordering regions such as Turkey and Rojava, increasing pressure on the government of Turkey, further causing political instability there.



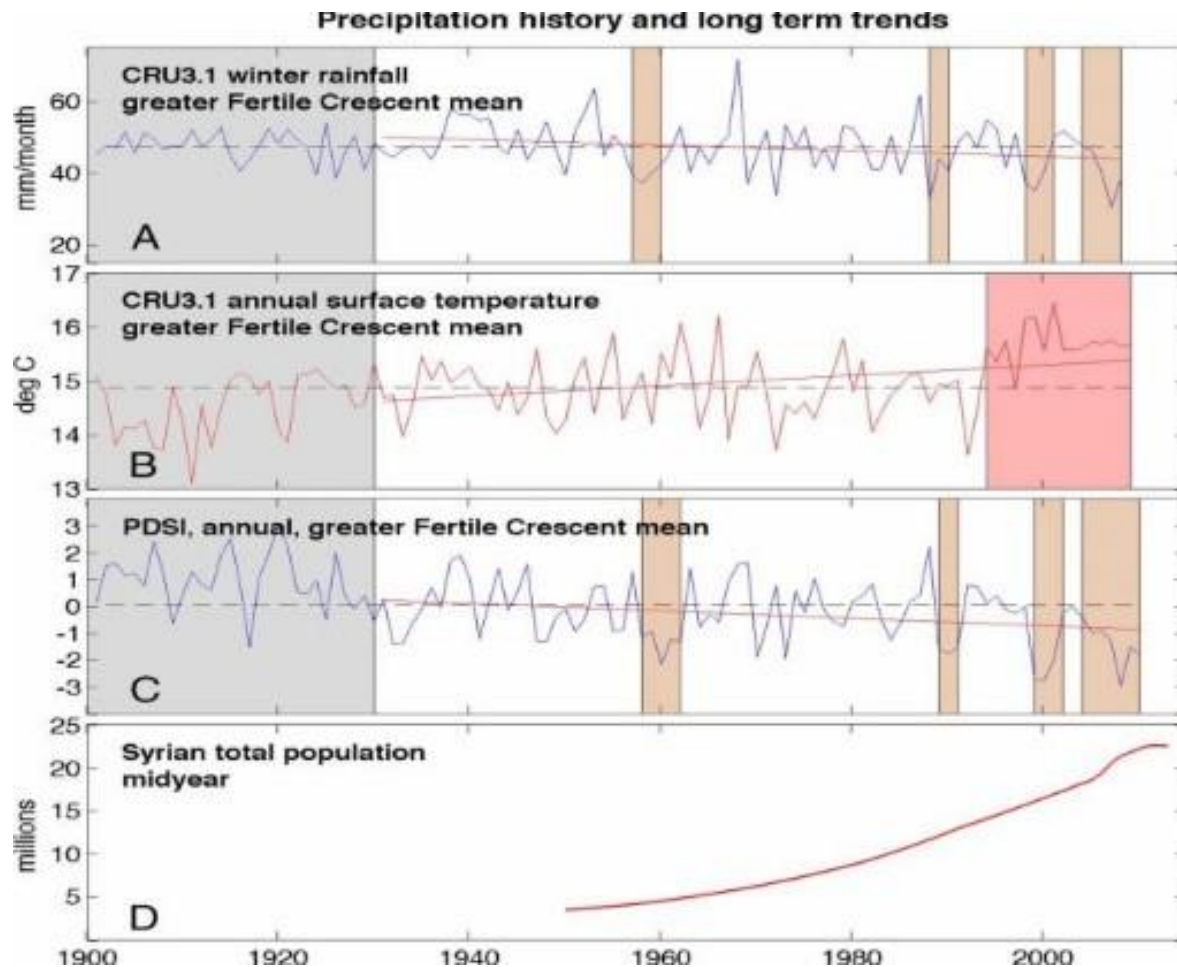
*Left to right: Flag of The Islamic State, Peak territories controlled by the ISIS, may of 2015*

Peace would return to Syria only in 2024, after the opposing forces would launch a decisive counter-offensive that completely destroyed Assad's government. The new government, led by Ahmed Al-Sharaa, would begin to slowly take refugees that have fled Syria since the beginning of the civil war in 2011. According to UNHCR reports, over 1 million refugees have already returned to Syria by the end of 2025.

### ***Syrian Situation: Part II and Conclusion***

A relatively unknown phenomenon that was almost completely overshadowed by the following civil war, the Syrian Drought of 2006-2011, a drought that brought the Syrian agriculture to an almost complete halt, something that was not seen for around 900 years. Syria's population of around 20 million by the end of 2005 was already considerably high for its climate and geography, which was swiftly becoming a problem for the encroaching water, which created a catastrophic drought that by 2007, caused farmers to be unable to plant and grow crops. And by 2010, almost all livestock in Syria had also died. With a huge amount of rural population moving into urban cities, the ongoing water and food shortages were also further exacerbated.

The overall economy of Syria was also struck hard due to agriculture originally forming about 25 per cent of Syria's GDP; this number had decreased by over 8 per cent throughout the drought. While observers and experts debate on whether this directly caused the Syrian powder keg to explode, the correlation between the two is nevertheless still present.



*Average winter rainfall (graph A), annual surface temperature (graph B), annual Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI; graph C) for the Fertile Crescent region, and Syrian population from 1900 to 2010 (graph D; from Kelley and others, 2015)*

All of these factors contributed to making Syria one of the largest refugee sources of the 21st century, with still over 12 million people in some sort of refugee situation, both internally and externally.

## **B. Ukrainian Refugee Crisis**

### **1. Introduction and Demographics**

Ukraine's unfortunate current circumstances have created the largest exodus of refugees outgoing from one nation to others since the aftermath of WWII. As of the end of 2025, over 5.6 million Ukrainian refugees have fled to various countries in the European Union since the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian war in 2022.

Ukraine, before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, had a heavy industry-based economy centred on the production of both raw and refined industrial goods. This led to Ukraine

attracting workers from around the Soviet Union, ultimately leading it to boast a very respectable population of over 51 million. However, the dissolution of the union led to an economic crisis within Ukraine in the form of a recession and hyperinflation, created by the sudden disruption of services and the supply chain of their products within the Union and the shock created by the mass privatization of almost all government-owned companies, which also led to mass unemployment.

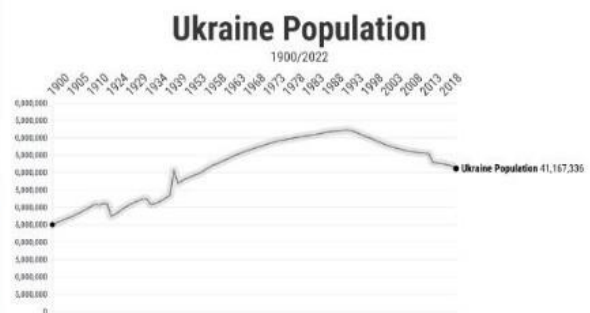
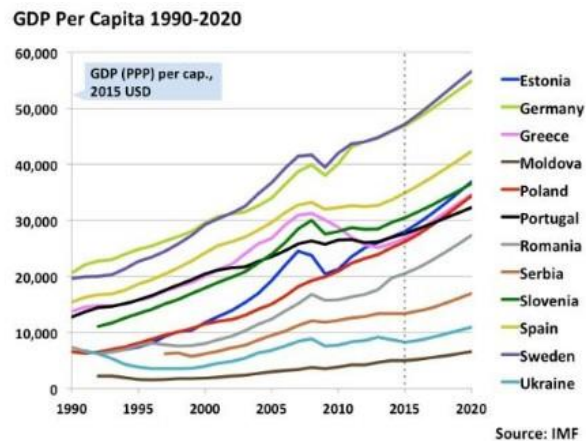
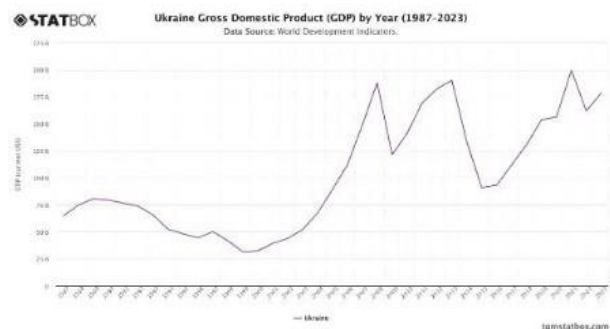
Immediately after the Soviet Union fell, Ukraine's population peaked at just around 51.9 million before slowly descending due to a downturn in the life quality there and the subsequent beginning of many Ukrainian people's migration into other EU nations and even in Russia in some cases in order to search for better lives. In about 10 years, the population of Ukraine has dropped to an estimated 45 million, down from over 50 million about a decade ago.

## **2. Post 2014**

Ukraine's transition to the status that it is in today arguably started in 2014, after the annexation of Crimea by Russia. Sensing that Ukraine's control in areas that were pro-Russian was faltering, the Russian-backed separatists in Donbass and Luhansk launched their rebellion, creating a protracted war in eastern Ukraine that would continue to weaken Ukraine's economy with the resources diverted into the region. This conflict would later become subsumed in the larger Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The invasion of Ukraine has since grown into a war of attrition between Russia and Ukraine. And due to the front line between two nations solidifying in the Donbass region of Ukraine, their industrial heartland, their economy was also very harshly hit by the invasion. In addition, the over 5.6 refugees that fled Ukraine after the invasion also caused Ukraine to lose a huge chunk of their workforce, furthering the economic crisis with a demographic crisis added on top.

Due to their inability to properly align themselves with the EU in order to properly integrate their now almost fully privatized economy into an economic bloc, Ukraine has lagged behind other previous Eastern Bloc nations in terms of GDP and GDP per capita growth, unable to match the growth of other nations like Poland, which has aligned itself decisively with the EU after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.



*Clockwise from top left: Ukraine GDP 1987-2023, Ukraine GDP per capita, 1990-2020, Ukrainian population from 1900 to 2022, refugees fleeing from Ukraine (10x)*

Since the beginning of the war, some 5 million refugees have fled into nations like Romania, Poland, and Czechia. Which has put considerable pressure onto the EU's integrity, due to the fact that these nations are normally against immigration. These aforementioned nations, especially Hungary and Poland, are not that willing to give any more funding to Ukraine for their war effort, further complicating the situation.

## C. Sudan Crisis

### 1. North-South Conflict

Sudan, since its independence from Egypt in 1956 has gone on to become one of the most conflict-shocked regions in Africa. Since its independence, Sudan has already fought 3 large-scale wars. Immediately after becoming a country, the divisions within the nation became clear. The Muslim majority north wanted to dominate and keep the Christian south under control, but to no avail. The south began an armed insurrection against the north

immediately after their independence. Beginning in 1955 and lasting up until 1972, without any sides being able to claim a decisive victory. And thus, a “Comprehensive Peace Agreement” was signed in 1972, granting South Sudan limited autonomy and allowing Sudan as a whole to return to some sort of peace after almost 17 years of fighting.

This peace, however, did not last long. The discovery of oil in South Sudan prompted the government to intensify its efforts to fully integrate and pacify the region, reigniting tensions. In response, the South launched another rebellion to preserve its autonomy within Sudan. As in the first war, the conflict was going nowhere fast. In addition, the rise of Omar Al-Bashir, a Sudanese Nationalist, to the position of the President of Sudan also led to the government forces intensifying their military campaigns against the south. In the end, the diversion of all resources towards the military and war effort ended up causing a famine in Sudan. This was partially caused by the government militias stripping the region of Bahr Al Ghazal, the region most affected by the famine, of all its livestock and cattle.

The worsening humanitarian conditions inside every part of Sudan eventually caused the region of Darfur to attempt to secede from Sudan. Darfur was a densely populated region with over 11 million people living in it, and although the region’s population is not majority Arab, they still had a significant presence there.

With their overextended forces not being able to properly respond and quell the rebellion within Darfur, the government opted to ally with the locally formed Arab militias known as the Janjaweed. These militias would fight on behalf of the Arab-dominated Sudanese government, but they would go on to commit unspeakable atrocities against the locals. These militias would later go on to consolidate themselves under the name of RSF, rapid support forces.

## **2. End of the Second and the Beginning of the Third Sudanese Civil War**

Slowly, the government under Omar Bashir would begin to lose credibility after their actions in the war and begin to seek a way out of it. In 2005, another peace agreement was signed between the two sides. Eventually setting the stage for a referendum that

would be held in 2011, on the topic of South Sudan independence. With the overwhelming amount of people voting in the

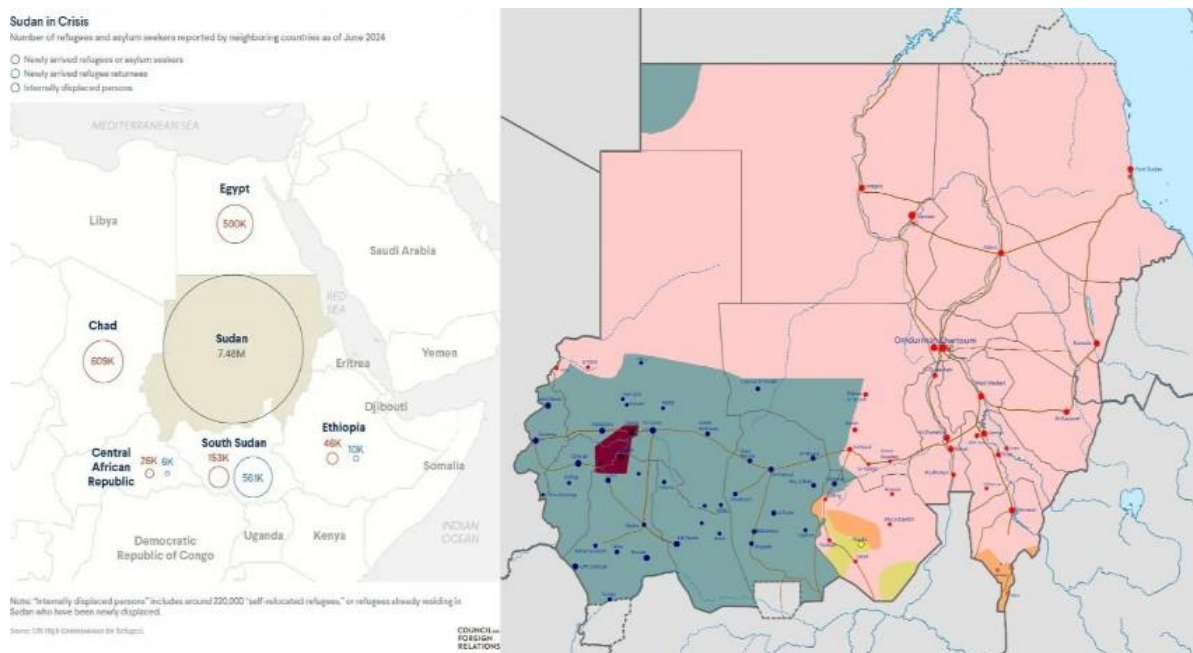


referendum on the side of secession, South Sudan would become free in 2011.

Omar Al-Bashir himself would be ousted in a military coup. Ending his over 30 years of rule over Sudan in 2019. The new transitional council would unfortunately prove themselves to be unable to solve the now increasingly volatile situation between themselves and the previously mentioned RSF, with them slowly beginning to resent the government for their perceived weakness against rebels. In April 2023, the RSF would ignite the war in Sudan once again, this time not against the Darfuri rebels, but against the government. With their hatred for non-Arabs now higher than ever, they begin to conduct brutal reprisals against the local Darfur population. Their continued attacks have also prevented the access of water and vital food supplies into the region.

Over 3.6 million Sudanese citizens have fled into other nations since the beginning of the war in 2023. Particularly Egypt and Chad, deepening the already strained infrastructural and humanitarian problems there.

So far government forces have been unable to wrestle the control of Darfur from the RSF. However, SLM (Sudan Liberation Army), a group of militias formed by locals, has liberated some parts of Darfur from the RSF forces.



*Left to Right: Sudanese Refugees in Bordering Countries, the current control of Sudan (government forces in red, RSF in blue, and the SLM in dark red)*

## D. Rohingya Crisis

Myanmar, since its secession from the British in 1948, has been in a state of armed conflict against its various ethnic groups. In this case, the Arakan army, situated in eastern Myanmar, has been fighting against government forces, otherwise known as "Tatmadaw" (Royal Armed Forces). The nation has, since the 1962 coup, been ruled as a military junta, one way or another. Due to the lengthy nature of the conflict, the government has devoted much of its resources towards the suppression of these ethnic insurgencies, leaving very little for its

citizens.

The Arakan army is one of the many regional armies formed by locals to defend themselves against their perceived government aggression. While the Tatmadaw had handed the control of some parts of the government to the political party National League of Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Syi, it had seized power once again following the 2021 coup. This reignited the settled conflict of Myanmar, after which many armies, whom previously had disarmed, were prompted to take up arms again.

These two groups are the two main actors who perpetrated the Rohingya genocide, with the largest difference between them being the difference in the time frame.

The main one that is known as the "Rohingya Genocide" is the one that was committed by the Tatmadaw in 2017, after the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked its forces on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2017.

This attack triggered an immediate response from Tatmadaw. After justifying their military operation as purely a counterinsurgency operation, they begin to immediately move into the state and begin committing atrocities on a mass scale, systematically.

Over 300,000 Rohingyans were already displaced from over 80 years of conflict. As of 2026, this number in total has increased to over 1.2 million refugees. Most of them have fled into the neighboring Bangladesh.

Over time these fleeing refugees have formed the largest refugee camp in the world, named "Kutupalong." It is located in Cox's Bazar, a coastal area in Bangladesh. Currently that camp alone hosts over 800,000 refugees, which has long exceeded what that area could have supported. Thus, any service beyond basic needs such as water and food is extremely scarce. UNHCR has since the beginning of the crisis actively played a role in attempting to improve their lives, providing basic needs, sanitation services, and medical facilities.

The second "phase" of this crisis came about in 2021, when the conflict that was mentioned here escalated into an open conflict between the Tatmadaw and other ethnic group armies. The Arakan Army, formed in 2009, began actively operating once again in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. This group has since committed a few atrocities against Rohingyans, including forced displacement and forced conscription. In addition, there have been reports that the Arakan army attacked Rohingyans due to questionable intelligence that they were actively collaborating with Tatmadaw.



*Clockwise from top left: Emblem of Tatmadaw, current situation in Myanmar, Rohingya refugees, the Kutupalong refugee camp*

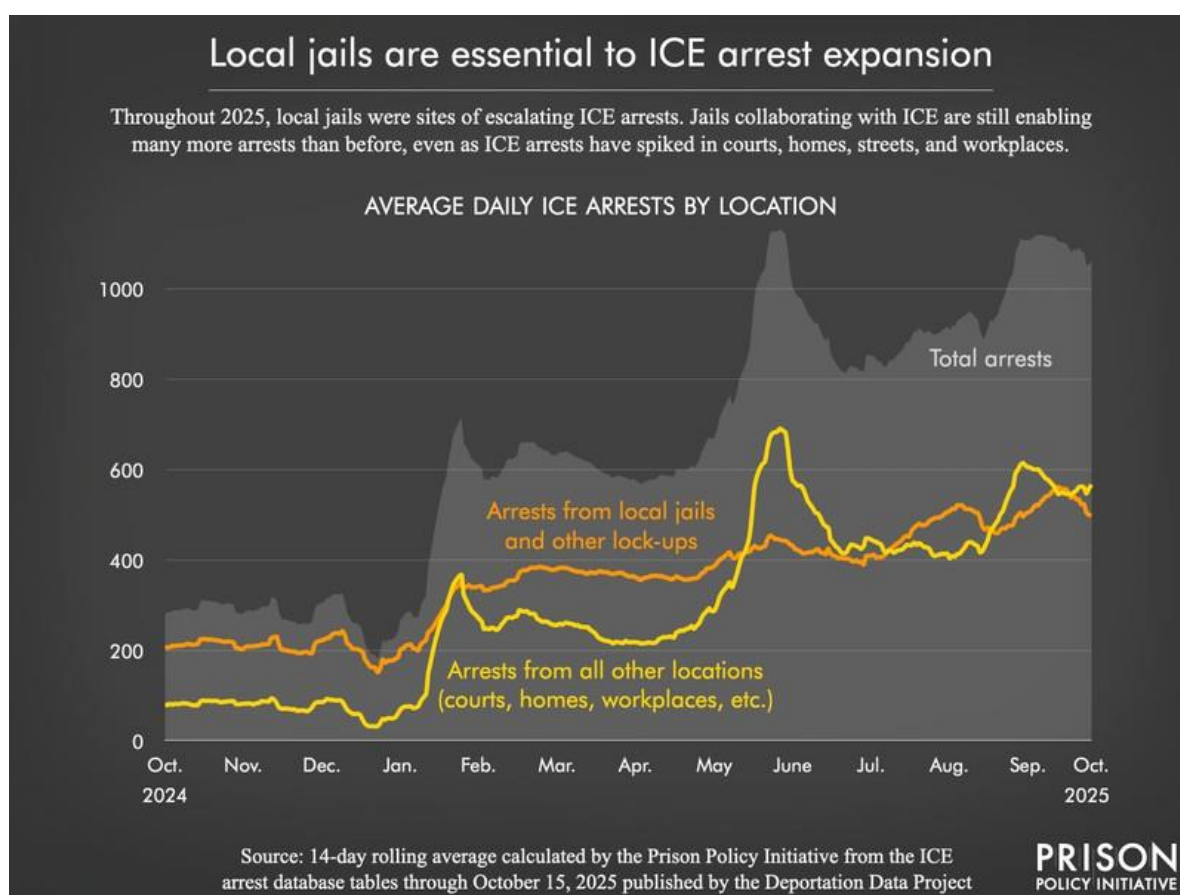
## **XI. Key Issues and Points of Debate**

### **A. Border Security vs. Humanitarian Obligations**

The question of border security is one of great debate, especially now, with rising tensions in the Middle East, increasing emigration from unsafe or unstable countries, and irregular immigration into various countries. As conflicts and political instability continue to displace

large numbers of people, states face the difficult task of securing their borders while also protecting those fleeing persecution, violence, and humanitarian crises.

Countries are free to guard and secure their borders in any way they see fit. Not only for the safety of the country, but border security can help decrease drug and human trafficking, terrorism, and other forms of organized crime. Governments and politicians constantly argue that it is necessary to have strict and powerful border security in place. For example, in the United States, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) has been responsible for enforcing immigration laws within the country and conducting operations against individuals who are believed to have violated these laws. However, ICE has also detained and deported non-criminal refugees and even non-immigrants. Propaganda efforts and increasing ICE activity have worsened racism and promoted violence against refugees.



*Average daily ICE arrests by location, Oct 2024-Oct 2025 (Deportation Data Project)*

One can argue that deportations violate the principle of non-refoulement. The principle of non-refoulement prohibits states from returning individuals to a country where they face a serious risk of persecution, torture, or other forms of serious harm. Many deportees face unsafe conditions when they return to their home country. However, determining whether a

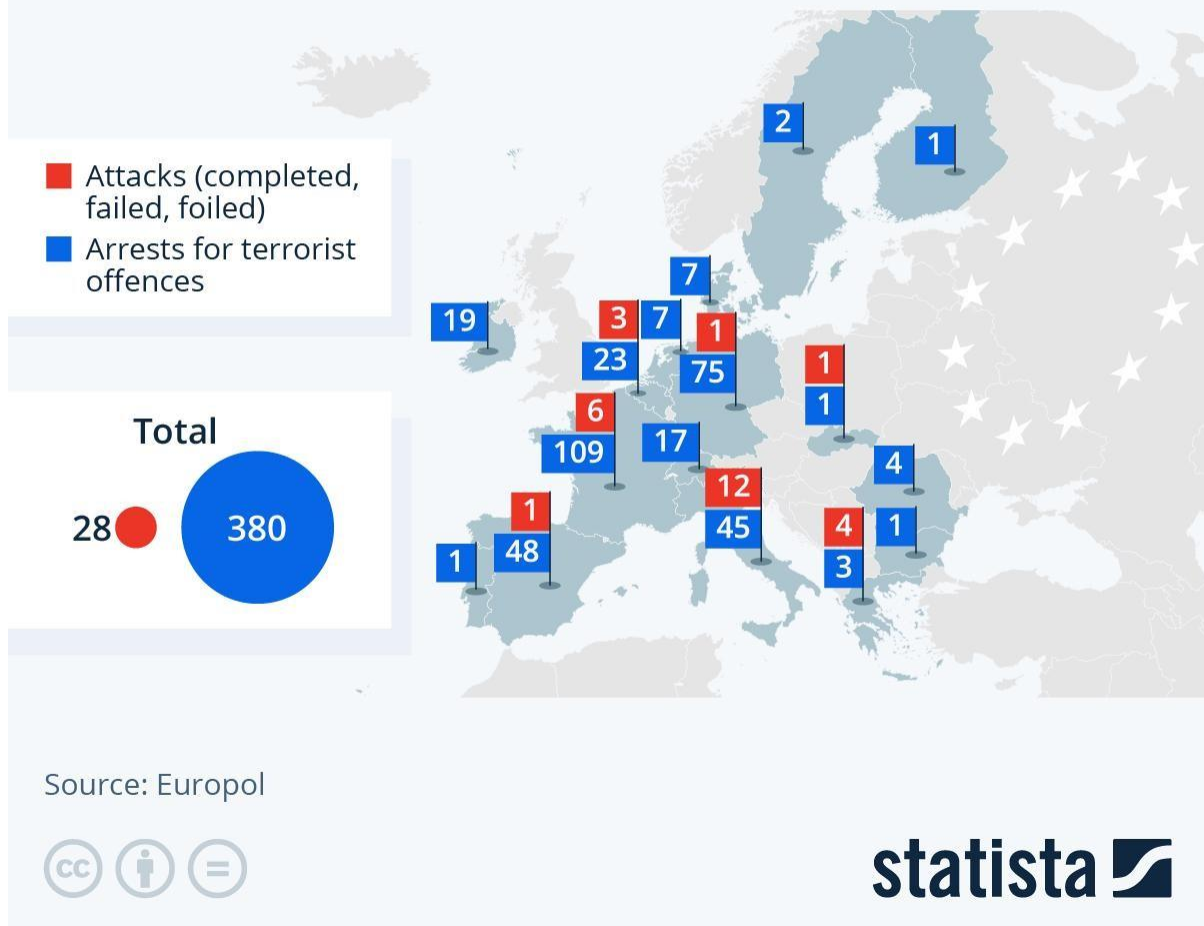
person is genuinely at risk can be difficult, especially when large numbers of people cross a border at the same time. Governments may argue that they need to conduct proper security checks and determine whether an individual qualifies for international protection before allowing them to remain in the country. Humanitarian organizations, on the other hand, argue that these procedures must not be used as a justification for automatically rejecting or deporting people without properly examining their circumstances.

## **B. Counterterrorism and Refugee Screening**

Counterterrorism is another major consideration when discussing border security and refugee protection. There have sadly been numerous terrorist attacks carried out by members of various militant and terrorist organizations, including ISIS, in which perpetrators have entered countries illegally, used false identities, or attempted to exploit weaknesses in border and immigration systems. Such incidents have understandably increased concerns among governments about the possibility of terrorist organizations exploiting migration routes to infiltrate other countries. As a result, many states have introduced stricter border controls and more extensive screening procedures for individuals seeking to enter their territory.

# Terrorism in Europe in 2022

Number of completed, failed and foiled terrorist attacks and number of arrests in the EU in 2022



*Number of terrorist attacks by country in Europe, 2022 (Europol)*

One example is the European refugee crisis that began in 2015, when millions of people sought protection in European countries after fleeing conflicts, particularly in Syria and Iraq. The large scale of these movements created significant logistical and security challenges for European governments. Although the overwhelming majority of those arriving were civilians seeking safety, concerns about the possibility of terrorist organizations exploiting migration routes became a major part of the political debate. These concerns became particularly prominent following the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015 and Brussels in March 2016. Some of the perpetrators of these attacks had links to extremist organizations and had, in some cases, used migration routes or false identities.

However, it is important to distinguish between legitimate security concerns and the assumption that refugees themselves constitute a security threat. Refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict, persecution, violence, or other

serious threats. In fact, many refugees are themselves victims of terrorist organizations and armed groups. For example, ISIS displaced millions of people in Iraq and Syria, meaning that many people fleeing these areas were escaping the very organization that governments were attempting to combat. Therefore, treating refugees as potential terrorists simply because they come from a conflict-affected region can both be inaccurate and deeply harmful.

The political response to refugee movements has also demonstrated how security concerns can become intertwined with domestic politics. Across Europe and elsewhere, several far-right political movements have used migration and terrorism as central themes in their campaigns. Some politicians have portrayed refugees as an inherent threat to national identity or public safety, sometimes presenting isolated cases of terrorism or crime as evidence that entire refugee populations should be viewed with suspicion. Such rhetoric can contribute to xenophobia and public hostility toward people who have already experienced war and displacement.

One important measure is the improvement of refugee screening and identification procedures. Governments can conduct background checks, biometric registration, and interviews during the asylum process in order to identify individuals who may have connections to terrorist organizations or other serious criminal networks. Biometric identification, including fingerprints and facial recognition, can help authorities confirm an individual's identity and detect the use of multiple identities or fraudulent documents. For example, several European countries have used databases such as the European Union's Eurodac system to register asylum seekers and determine whether an individual has previously applied for asylum in another member state.

However, technological screening systems are not perfect. Refugees fleeing war may have lost their passports or other identification documents, while government records in conflict-affected countries may be incomplete or inaccessible. An individual should therefore not automatically be considered suspicious simply because they cannot provide conventional documentation. Screening procedures should account for the realities of displacement while still allowing authorities to conduct appropriate security assessments.

International cooperation is equally important. Terrorist organizations and criminal networks frequently operate across national borders, meaning that a single country may not possess enough information to identify a potential threat on its own. Governments can cooperate by sharing relevant intelligence, improving communication between border agencies, and working with international organizations such as UNHCR and INTERPOL. Better coordination can allow states to identify individuals who present genuine security concerns without requiring every country to independently develop its own intelligence and screening system.

Furthermore, increased information-sharing creates serious concerns regarding privacy and personal data. Refugees may be required to provide highly sensitive information during the asylum process, and governments must ensure that such information is stored securely and used only for legitimate purposes. Poorly regulated databases could expose vulnerable individuals to identity theft, discrimination, or even persecution if their information is shared with governments or organizations that may pose a danger to them. Any international screening system should therefore establish clear rules regarding who can access information, how long it can be stored, and under what circumstances it can be shared.

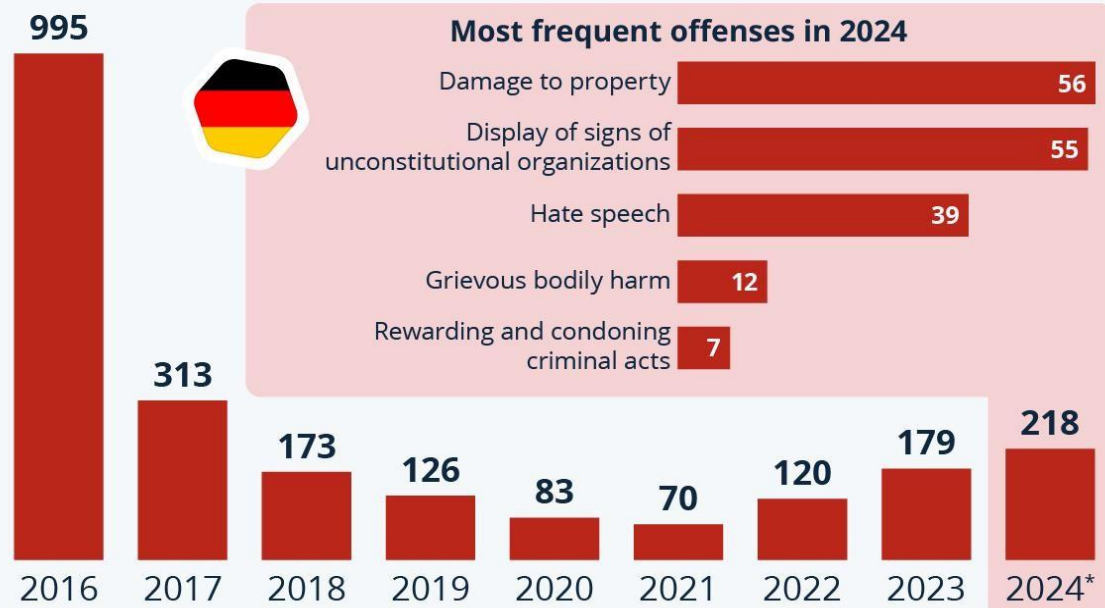
The speed and fairness of the asylum process is also relevant to counterterrorism. In countries where asylum applications take several years to process, authorities may have difficulty maintaining accurate information about applicants and their whereabouts. Long waiting periods can also place significant pressure on refugees and host communities. Improving administrative capacity and reducing unnecessary delays could therefore benefit both humanitarian protection and national security. At the same time, faster processing should not come at the expense of thorough and fair assessments.

Governments should also consider what happens after refugees enter a country. Security does not end at the border. Refugees who face extreme poverty, discrimination, social exclusion, or a lack of educational and employment opportunities can become more vulnerable to exploitation by criminal or extremist organizations. This does not mean that refugees are inherently more likely to become radicalised. Rather, extremist groups can attempt to exploit social and economic grievances within marginalized communities. Providing access to education, employment, language programs, healthcare, and community integration can therefore contribute to both humanitarian protection and long-term security.

The political rhetoric surrounding refugees can itself have security consequences. When political leaders repeatedly portray refugees as criminals, terrorists, or invaders, this can increase social polarization and hostility toward refugee communities. In extreme cases, such rhetoric can contribute to hate crimes and violent attacks against migrants and minorities. The rise of the European far-right has contributed greatly to attacks and discrimination against immigrants and refugees. At a time of political and economic instability, parties and governments will do their best to put the blame elsewhere, such as on immigrants, as opposed to focusing on the main drivers of instability, such as corruption, war, and austerity policies caused by the ever-growing chokehold of neoliberalism on modern-day society.

# Attacks on Refugee Accommodations Surge

Number of politically motivated attacks on housing for refugees and asylum seekers in Germany



\* Preliminary

Source: German Bundestag/Minor inquiry from Die Linke



statista

*Number of politically motivated attacks on housing for refugees and asylum seekers in Germany, 2016-2024. (Bundestag)*

The international community must therefore avoid viewing national security and refugee protection as completely opposing objectives. Effective security measures can be designed to protect both states and displaced populations. Governments should seek to identify genuine threats through reliable intelligence, individual assessments, and effective screening while ensuring that refugees are treated with dignity and that their fundamental rights are respected. Ultimately, the question facing the international community is not whether states should prioritize security or refugee rights, but how both objectives can be achieved simultaneously.

### **C. Burden Sharing Among States**

One of the most contentious topics surrounding refugees is how much of a burden a nation by itself should hold. A refugee-hosting nation's public, whether that nation is able to support those refugees or not, will begin to at one point question 'why' they are holding x number of refugees and why, for example, why does the y nation not instead hold these burdens instead of themselves?

The UN Global Compact on refugees directly addresses this topic. In this case, the Global Compact specifically states that the handling of refugees should be shared between the global nations. This means that when a nation that itself is suffering from economic, social, and political problems and thus can't properly address the crisis in which they are in at the moment, other wealthier nations should, in this case, lend a hand to them.

A good example to look at when analyzing this specific topic is the European Union. A hotspot and a top choice among those around the world seeking asylum, it has some valuable examples that can show us possible political ramifications in a case in which these burden-sharing mechanisms are not implemented properly or implemented unfairly.

The 1990 Dublin Convention determined, much or less, that whichever nations an asylum seeker should arrive in would handle and therefore be responsible for the well-being of them for the time being. After it came into effect in 1997 for all EU members, some nations like Italy and Greece were immediately affected disproportionately. Italy, in this case, due to its proximity to Africa, received the majority of asylum seekers coming from there. However, more often than not, their preferred destination was, in fact, not Italy. But, due to the new regulations, Italy would have to handle the bureaucratic matters concerning them and could be the scapegoat for the EU to blame should anything happen to them along the way. A similar case was also present in Greece, the only difference being that instead of African asylum seekers, they handled mostly Middle Eastern ones.



## **D. Irregular Migration and Smuggling Networks**

During a time of emergency and crisis, most refugees seeking to flee their nation often do not have the time or the ability to properly apply for the procedures of the nation they are fleeing into, therefore creating a situation in which host nations receive different amounts of refugees during different times, therefore creating an irregularity in the arrival intervals of the refugees, hence the name. Exceptions do remain, however; those who properly enter another nation with the necessary documents but later overstay due to personal reasons or other reasons related to their home nation also constitute irregular migrants.

Sometimes, those aforementioned refugees might not even have a “proper” way of entering the nations of which they are attempting to flee. Thus, they might have to pick unconventional routes of entering those countries, and this is where the smuggling routes come in. Most of these refugees have no choice but to pick these unsafe and highly dangerous ways to enter those countries. However these routes are, as previously stated, not under any form of supervision from anyone. While some of these operations are small and independent, most of them are organized by criminal gangs and organizations with structures.

More often than not, they will demand an unreasonable amount of money from these people who have no choice. Even then, they might not do what they promise to them, instead kidnapping them and further trafficking them for their own profit. The solutions to these issues are not unique. Instead, they are the same ones that the UN and other intergovernmental organizations are trying to apply, such as establishing proper mechanisms for accepting and registering refugees and the proper burden sharing between states to ensure that those who are in need do not have to be turned around due to political reasons.

Moreover, the smuggling of migrants is explicitly criminalized under the 2000 UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants, and it is enforced by UNDOC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and INTERPOL around the world. Various regional and other UN protocols supplement this protocol as well.

## **E. Integration, Repatriation, and Resettlement**

Being one of the most important questions that a host nation should address, the eventual fate of refugees is an inevitable point that they have to touch on and provide solutions for. As it is often undesirable both for the refugees and the host nations to keep them in that status and keep providing them with only token aid. Therefore refugees are, after a certain period of

time, placed into one of two categories, either being integrated, or sent overseas, with the latter splitting into two.

## **Integration**

Some nations might choose to eventually find these refugees a place in their own society in order to finally address the issue of migration. If one is integrated into another society this way, they will be able to properly access social services that a normal citizen would be able to access. In addition, they could receive education and training regarding higher qualifications. With them working like a normal citizen would, they also pay taxes, unlike migrants whose fate has not been officially decided yet, alleviating a huge burden on the state's arms. However, this method is not without its consequences and obstacles. These migrants might face racism or discrimination along the way, or the very process of integrating them might come at economic costs that would limit opportunities for locals. This could also be used as political fuel by various political entities, as seen in Europe.

## **Repatriation**

With their nation having stabilized from whatever situation they were suffering from, both sides in this case might choose to voluntarily have the refugees returned to their nation of origin. This is often the preferred option for most migrants and host nations, but it is completely dependent on the stabilization of the refugee source nation. The main difference between repatriation and deportation is that while repatriation happens under mostly voluntary conditions for all parties, deportations occur when the host nation decides, for various reasons, that they can't handle a refugee or a group of refugees anymore and decides that they are to return to their country of origin, whether the situation there has stabilized or not.

## **Resettlement**

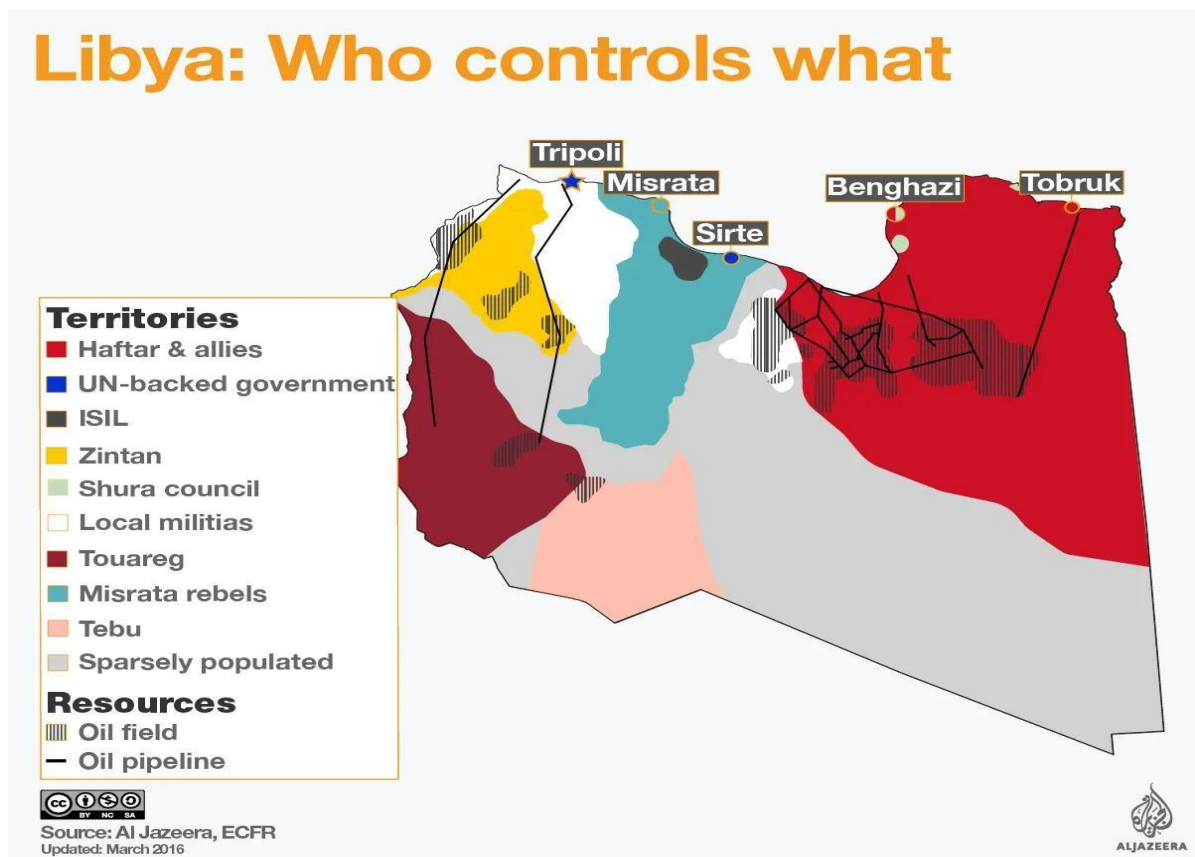
When a nation simply can not or does not want to host refugees, during the beginning or after some time, they also might choose to seek another host nation for these refugees. When this happens, a third party, the new host nation, enters the picture and after the due process, becomes the refugee's new home. The conditions for all parties in this case are almost always processed and completed before the refugees make the change.

## XII. Previous International Actions

### A. UN General Assembly Resolutions

Throughout its history, the UN General Assembly has passed and adopted various resolutions on the topic of addressing issues related to refugees, with a considerable number of them being adopted in response to the issues in Africa, the source of the majority of refugee-related issues in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Resolution 69/154, adopted on the 18th of December 2014 coincided with the outbreak of violence in Libya. While other conflicts such as the Central African Civil War and the smaller regional conflicts that happened in regions like Mali also contributed to the passing of the resolution, ultimately the largest issue pressing the passage of the resolution was the Libyan Civil War.



*Map of the Libyan Civil War, 2016.*

After the Libyan leader Muammar Al-Gaddafi was deposed and subsequently killed in 2011, the Libyan National Transitional Council (NTC) attempted to establish a proper state bureaucracy with democratic elements but ultimately failed due to its internal divisions stemming from ideological differences. And ultimately in 2014 the tensions boiled over and resulted in two factions seizing control of two of the largest cities of Libya, Tripoli and Benghazi. Eventually in 2020, the UN was able to mediate a permanent ceasefire between the two factions, leaving no clear victor in the conflict.

The resolution called upon the African Union members to streamline the process of registering refugees, provide generously to the programs that are assisting in these crises involving refugees, and, most importantly, call upon the UN itself to assist the African Union members in applying recommended actions.

Another noteworthy example is Resolution 76/143 passed in December 2021. Amid rising tensions around the globe surrounding regions and the historic high for refugees, the resolution was passed in order to make an attempt to provide a solution to various rapidly escalating/ongoing conflicts around the world. For example, the Ukraine-Russia conflict had not yet begun, but it was only months away. Sudan had also suffered a military coup, further worsening its already rapidly deteriorating situation. Finally, the Taliban regime that was thought to be badly beaten by the US-led coalition years earlier had, in a surprise turn of events, seized power in Afghanistan once again, increasing concerns about the humanitarian conditions there.

Although its severity had yet to be fully determined by the global community, Covid-19 was also a huge factor in the passing of this resolution. During its earlier stages, the virus was still considerably focused on causing destruction to its host before slowly transitioning into a more survival-focused organism. Nevertheless, the possibility of the virus wrecking havoc in regions and in this case, refugee camps that were not sanitary was still very real.

## **B. Global Compact on Refugees**

The Global Compact on Refugees is a comprehensive “handbook” compiled and affirmed by the UN on the 17th of December, 2018. It contains four main objectives, each detailing the step-by-step process of hosting refugees and, subsequently, the burden shared among the international community.

The first objective states that a country, no matter its position, could in a very short time receive a large amount of refugees. And because of that, it might suddenly find its

infrastructure strained, social services and bureaucracy bloated, and resources, monetary and natural, strained. Therefore, more wealthy nations should take action in properly and sustainably supporting these smaller nations, should they come under such a situation.

The second objective actively recognizes the unsustainability of a system and community fully reliant upon foreign and governmental aid. Therefore it encourages the host states to instead take action to integrate these refugees into their societies, therefore allowing these refugees to be able to have a somewhat self-sustainable life. This comes in the form of providing skill and qualification training to these people and allowing them to engage in various social areas. In this sense, each refugee is able to properly sustain themselves to a considerable degree and therefore, alleviate a huge amount of burden on the host state's shoulders.

The third objective states that sometimes the host nations are simply unable to keep up with the sudden influx of refugees that they are hosting, and their further expansion of their infrastructure and social services might be impossible. Thus, it calls upon all the involved nations, the nation that is the source of the refugees, the host nation, and in this case a third nation that is able to support a portion of these refugee communities. Some earlier examples of this implementation of this policy have already been observed before, such as the EU. The EU has, for example, its own system of distributing refugees across its member states, based on different factors.

The fourth and the final point puts emphasis on long-term solutions for these refugee communities. It acknowledges that, more often than not, the preferred solution for these refugees is their safe return to their country of origin. Therefore, it actively calls upon the nations of the world to also actively seek permanent solutions to whatever the case that the sources of refugees are suffering from. This might be helping them with ending the conflict that they are in through negotiations, providing humanitarian aid if they are suffering from issues like food shortages and famines, and assisting them in reconstruction if they have recently experienced one of these aforementioned emergencies.

### **C. Regional Initiatives**

While international aid to nations around the world organized by organizations including the UN makes up the largest part of the aid, more often than not, regional communities have also contributed significantly to helping to alleviate these situations.

These initiatives extend anywhere from unorganized, personal help from small communities organizing between themselves in order to assist with refugees of another community, all the

way to properly organize and coordinate efforts by one or more nations that neighbor the refugee-hosting or refugee-source nations.

Some examples include the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR), a regional organization based in Asia founded in 2018. They are active around the region in various ways, such as managing resource allocations, providing overall aid to areas that are affected. In a little contrast to other regional initiatives around the world, the APNOR specifically emphasises the slogan *by refugees, for refugees*, recognizing that the refugees are able to be more than refugees, recognizing them as possible leaders and decision makers in these situations, amplified by their firsthand experience in these situations.

Another example includes the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025, a regional effort led by the UNHCR that has brought together over 111 nations together for a coordinated effort in helping those who require aid in Sudan. The seven main neighbour actors of the Sudan Crisis in the plan were stated as the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

The plan specifically addressed the host nation's deteriorating situation, as well as the immense amount of strain that has been put on these 7 neighboring nations, developing nations themselves. Alongside providing humanitarian and financial aid, the plan, in accordance with the previously mentioned Global Compact on Refugees, has called upon these 7 nations to attempt to properly integrate these refugees into their economies, acknowledging, once again, the unsustainability of a community of refugees solely reliant on governmental/international aid.

### **XIII. Questions a Resolution Should Address**

- How can states strengthen border security while ensuring that refugees' fundamental rights are protected?
- How should refugees be screened and registered without creating unnecessary barriers to seeking asylum?
- What measures can be implemented to prevent terrorism and organized crime without unfairly associating refugees with security threats?

- How can states improve cooperation and information-sharing regarding refugee screening while protecting refugees' privacy and personal data?
- What international standards should govern the treatment of refugees at borders, including those arriving without documentation?
- How can governments combat human trafficking and smuggling while ensuring that stricter border controls do not put refugees at greater risk?
- What role should international organizations, particularly the UNHCR, play in assisting states with refugee registration, screening, and protection?
- How can countries fairly share the financial and humanitarian responsibilities associated with large-scale refugee movements?
- What safeguards should be established to prevent discrimination, arbitrary detention, forced return, or other human rights violations against refugees?
- How can the international community create long-term solutions for displaced populations, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and third-country resettlement?

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