



REFUGEE CRISIS AS A GRAVE SITUATION

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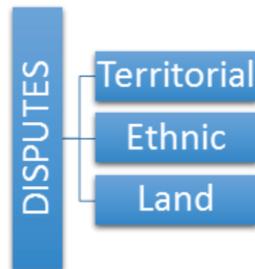
ABSTRACT With an unprecedented 22.5 million refugees displaced all over the world, the worldwide refugee crisis is one of the biggest social, economic and political challenges that we face today. This paper combines the debates and discussions of the author at numerous conferences and forums to present an accurate description of the global crisis – sudden surge, global impact, and problems faced by different parties. It also present a three-tier solution to address the same.

KEYWORDS :**1. An introduction to the topic**

The worldwide refugee crisis is one of the biggest social, economic and political challenges that we've faced in the past two decades, and even though a lot has been done to tackle this issue, sadly, not much of a change has been seen. Despite constantly raising the standard of living for a huge part of the population, still, an unprecedented **65.6 million** people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly **22.5 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18**. There are also **10 million stateless people**, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. **For these people, every day is a struggle. They don't know whether they will get two square meals or not; they don't know whether they will wake to the sound of bombings or to the rays of sun; they don't know whether they will even survive the next day or not.** No continent is unaffected. Families continue to get displaced every minute, every hour and every day.

2. Reasons for the detrimental surge in the past decade

The following sub section discusses upon the strong reasons that have led to a huge deterioration of the refugee crisis situation in the past decade. The numbers have grown so much in the last ten years that we need to analyse upon WHY this affect has been so prominent in recent years.



- It is of no doubt that the past decade of humanity has seen a vast spread of inter-regional conflicts and upcoming of intra-continental disputes. These hate oriented movements have led to a great rise in casualties and above all has led to the forced displacement of millions and millions of people. The displaced, when under no nation's statehood, live life of constant fear and harassment. It is to be noticed that the innocent civilians, to protect their families and find peace, cross borders and migrate to unknown lands in a sphere of bloodsheds. A record 65 million people have been displaced from their homes, mostly by war. Half are children.

Syrian war and Climate Change

Reports even argue that climate change played a major role in build-up of the Syrian war, with successive droughts causing 1.5 million people to migrate to the country's cities between 2006 and 2011. Many of these people then had no reliable access to food, water or jobs.

- It will be quite unjustified if only conflicting situations are blamed for the surge of refugee crisis in the last decade. The last five years have seen a rapid changing of climatic conditions, making situations even worse. Climate change is an inevitable factor that

forces people to migrate to new lands in search of better hospitable conditions. Droughts, floods, tsunamis, forest fires, tornadoes, rising sea levels, all lead to forced migration where people initially get internally displaced and in no time are stranded on international borders with zero security of life and get tagged as refugees. According to UNHCR, an annual average of 21.5 million people have been forcibly displaced by weather-related sudden onset hazards – such as floods, storms, wildfires, extreme temperature – each year since 2008. **Climate change sows seeds for conflicts, but it also makes displacement much worse when it happens.**

1. Global Perspective**3.1. Impact****3.1.1. The Refugees**

- Refugees and migrants start facing a great amount of problems, like that of **food, shelter, education** etc., as soon as they leave their homeland.
- Changing their country also means the coming up of variations on the **social and cultural environment** which they were used to of living since birth. Most of the times, people in the host country, don't accept them and this leads to discrimination against them.
- Leaving everything behind and coming to an unknown country has a great impact on their minds and they start suffering from **mental problems**.
- Refugees generally don't have necessary **legal documents** like passports and visas. This forces them to be tagged as illegal migrants.

3.1.2. Host nations

It is quite notable that the States hosting refugee influx undergo a lot of economic and financial changes. Several of the times, the nations incapable of sustaining their own population, see such a huge exodus of population that situations always seem to be worsening. It is also a little known fact that rich and powerful nations, with sparse populations, believe in the funding of refugee camps across the globe instead of welcoming them in their land of infinite opportunities. Hosting nations have to, as a matter of fact, provide the new populations with basic amenities and turn the population into an asset instead of a liability. Job opportunities, housing needs, adequate access to food, and hygienic & efficient living space are a few to administer quickly. Societal problems of quality education and that of social inclusion {kindly refer to my speech on social inclusions for better understanding: <https://youtu.be/bXGujvwxQc>} keep arising with time.

The host government also needs to ensure that focus on the refugee and migration challenges does not divert attention and funding away from the needs of the millions of people living in the country.

“We want to ensure that refugee rights are upheld everywhere and that they have access to shelter, food and healthcare. This must continue. But we also want to create opportunities for education and livelihoods. This is what refugees want desperately.”

~ Filippo Grandi

United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees, February 2016

3.1.1. United Nations

The United Nations (UN) has constantly been addressing the refugee issues across the globe. Today, it is one of the most evident and prominent task. The UN agency that helps refugees is **UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees)**; also known as the UN Refugee Agency, which emerged in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by that conflict and was established on December 14, 1950 by the UN General Assembly. Today, nearly 20 people are forcibly displaced every minute as a result of conflict or persecution and thus the work of UNHCR is more important than ever before.



In 2012, the UNHCR had its total expenditures close to USD 2.3 billion. This figure grew up to about USD 3.9 billion in a span of just four years, in 2016. The expenditure includes programmes that support **continuing operations** (Refugee Programme, Stateless Programme, Reintegration Projects and IDP Projects) and **supplementary programmes** to cover emergencies (such as the Syria crisis or large-scale repatriation operations).

3.1. Problems faced by Migrants

- Lack of food and shelter- Refugees and migrants face a scarcity of food and a majority of children suffer from **malnourishment**.

Finding a proper shelter is always a tedious task. Usually, there is **no proper infrastructure** to provide shelter to such a huge population. The funds with host country usually prove to be insufficient for the number of people that come. International organisations work to provide food and shelter to refugees, but still, refugee camps set up by the United Nations aren't enough.

- Human trafficking- Stranded refugees and migrants are vulnerable to human trafficking. Many unlawful organisations and individuals take advantage of their helplessness. Refugees and migrants are **traded** for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation of the trafficker.
- Education- Due to lack of funding, no child gets a proper education. Even if a child gets enrolled in a school, discrimination by both teachers and classmates forces him/her to dropout from the school. Also, the curriculum and language is a great barrier in his/her learning. Children in real life interview explain how huge distances from school and no proper transportation facilities make the task of reaching the school very tough.
- Health care- Migrants do not get proper health care facilities. Proper sanitation is absent. Lack of medical camps has led to the spread of diseases like epidemics. Patients of chronic diseases find it even tougher to survive in such a type of environment.
- Sexual abuses- In such an instable and lawless environment, sexual abuses and harassments are common. Molesters find it easy to molest children and women, who are innocent and helpless in such a situation. The victim often gets infected with deadly sexually transmitted diseases (**STDs**) like HIV, gonorrhoea and syphilis.

4. How to tackle this situation?

Analysing the magnitude of the problem, it is very important to find solutions to the problems that we are currently facing. We not only have to focus on durable solutions for the present scenario, but, we also need to introspect our past mistakes for a bright future.

The solution chart depicted below combines steps and methods we need to focus upon for a better world to live and grow. The chart is divided into three sections, each listing solutions and the time period when they are expected to be followed – 1. Before migration 2. During migration and 3. After problems have subsided.

4.1. Before Migration

- Every country in the present world needs to start practising various steps and methods before a crisis like situation arises. Construction of a valid and an appropriate definition of the term 'refugee' is very important.
- Before we see a widespread mass movement of migration, it is important for nations to allocate emergency funds and fix sectors in annual budgets for the internally displaced, stateless and migrants.

4.2. During Migration

- During the migration, several tasks by several organisations come into the picture. At this stage, an urgent collaboration between the host nations, the international organisations and third-party nations (for distribution of funds to other two collaborators) is necessary.
- Host Nation: Major workload is on the host nation and its government. The nation needs to feed the new population and administer its civilians in such a way that there is very less possibility of a rioting situation for competition for food, shelter, jobs, education and healthcare. There needs to be a commitment to boost the national capacities in responding to refugee crisis and addressing various gaps. There needs to be proper safeguarding of various rights (Right of return, Right to non-refoulement, Right to family reunification, Right to travel, Restriction of onward movement etc.) by the host administration. Mass resettlement programs will also be of key importance.
- International Organisations: (These will intervene when necessary) The Cluster Approach, used for coordinating in non-refugee humanitarian emergencies, should be adopted for the protection and assistance to refugees as the present Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) doesn't seem to have achieved its goals.

4.3. After subsiding of problems

- Once there has been substantial resettlement and the work starts resuming to that of normal, there is a dire need for introspection of the past. The root causes that led to the situation need to be looked upon and mistakes need to be rectified so that the near future is safe and sustainable.
- At the very same time, it is needed to be prepared of any further future situation, small-scale or large-scale, inter-regional or inter-continental, migration of thousands or migration of millions, death of thousands or reintegration of millions.

4. CONCLUSION

In this age of violent extremism as well as phenomenally rising globalisation, it is always the common man who strives hard for existence. Today, international displacement levels, as discussed in this paper, have reached so high that addressing the situation even at personal levels is the need of the hour. Tagging a person by the term 'refugee' is just not sufficient in a world where approximately 20 people are newly displaced every minute of the day. It is high time that WE understand the magnitude of the problem and URGE our governments to create our countries stronger and tougher with new and improvised reforms to firstly not sink into such a situation and secondly support those nations that today are stranded.



In conclusion, to enhance the positive potential impacts – both societal and economic – and mitigate the risks associated with evolving global migratory flows, individuals, technology, private sector and governments must work together to give a strong collaborative response.

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