



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Addressing the ongoing displacement of Syrians and the challenges faced by host countries.

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Description of the Committee

The UNHCR stands for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This is one of the branches of the United Nations that works to ensure that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having to experience violence and war at home.

The UNHCR was established in 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly to help the millions of Europeans that lost their homes due to the Second World War. They lead to international action to protect refugees, give life-saving aid, help defend fundamental human rights, and create solutions that guarantee individuals have a secure place to live from which to create a brighter future.

Now the UNHCR has 20,739 personnel working for them in 135 countries. They have helped 50 million refugees to start their lives, and are still continuing to protect and save 108.4 million refugees' lives. They work hard to make sure that the talents and potential of the refugees are not wasted. Their mission is to seek long term solutions for the refugees. They return families and individuals to their homes once it is safe to do so. For the ones that cannot return to their homes the UNHCR helps them settle in other countries.

Introduction to the Topic

After nearly a decade, Syria remains the largest refugee crisis in the world. Since 2011, almost 15 million Syrians have had to flee their home country in search of safety. About 7 million Syrians remain homeless or displaced in their own country where almost 70% of the country's inhabitants need humanitarian assistance and 90% of the population live in poverty. It is estimated that about 5.5 million Syrians have fled to the 5 neighboring countries; Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq. Germany has 850,000 Syrians, making it the largest host country while not neighboring Syria. Since the issue is a civil war, there are many factors that



have caused the war, among them are economic inequality, the Authoritarian Regime in Syria, droughts, and more.

The Syrian refugee crisis has had a massive impact on the modern world, affecting the stability of many countries all over the world, weakening alliances with many other countries for the Syrian government, really testing what humanitarian aid and organizations can do, and changing many people's perspectives on civil wars.

Thousands of individuals have died in the six-year civil war. Millions of Syrians have evacuated their homeland in search of protection and access to essential services, which has resulted in an enormous refugee crisis. At the end of September 2017, the United Nations Refugee Agency calculated that there were 5,233,712 formally identified Syrian refugees living faraway from Syria. Seven more million Syrians are currently forced or forced to flee their homes and move somewhere within the nation. More than half of all Syrians are now displaced by the Syrian Civil War.

Background Information

This crisis came as an outcome of the government punishing teenagers in public for making anti-government graffiti. It happened in March 2011 in the town of Daraa. This situation provoked public demonstrations all over Syria. Syrians were repressed forcefully by government officials. The dispute escalated rapidly, this resulted into a civil war which made Syrian citizens have to flee the country. The refugees of Syria have taken refuge in 130 countries or more, though the majority of the refugees have gone to nearby countries like Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Türkiye.

Syrians also live in cities but not living in the refugees doesn't mean they have a successful life. Several thousands of people were killed and immense amounts of property damage were caused by the earthquake in Turkey and northern Syria, particularly in places where Syrian refugees are situated.

With almost twenty-three million individuals staying in areas impacted, this situation has made the already ongoing event worse. 54,000 people have died and 150,000 homes have been evacuated since March 2023, putting 900,000 individuals in desperate need of shelter. Syrians have restricted basic resources, employment or education chances. Several issues affect Syrians, like the financial crisis that COVID19 left for most host countries, the ongoing war in Ukraine, major earthquakes and worldwide inflation. Over 90% of Syrians live in poverty, and in the two previous years, inflation has surpassed 800%, making even the most basic needs extremely expensive. Due to the economic decline, 12.1 million Syrian citizens now face a shortage of food. This dispute has been going on for 12 years and it is still an ongoing problem. About 70 percent of Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance. They had experienced many attacks



and violence they lost many important and crucial things like homes, family and belongings. They have grown knowing about the crisis and having a tough life. More than half of the Syrian refugees are under 18 years old and over 47% of them don't have access to school. Over two million Syrians are not attending school and 1.6 million may not attend at all. Children's rights are in danger every day and may not exist in the next few years if this problem doesn't end.

Current Situation of the Topic

The UNHCR makes a request to the world to remember the needs of Syrians inside and outside the country, 11 years since it began. Syria is still the biggest displacement crisis in the world. More than 13 million people have escaped or been displaced within its borders. Neighboring countries have welcomed more than 5.6 million Syrian refugees. These countries have been suffering from financial stress, especially the negative socio-economic impact due to Covid-19 pandemic. Refugees have suffered, losing homes and experiencing rising prices for food and other essential things. Right now most of the Syrian refugees live in poverty. The future is terrible for the ones that are at risk like single mothers and children without someone to take care of them and people with disabilities. In Lebanon where more that 90% of Syrians live together and many more coming, the situation out there is not great.

Children are dropping out of school and we can see more early marriages especially in poor families. The access to education and health has been getting better but can still slip away.

Some host countries have been allowing refugees to access the labor market, public health care and many other services. This has been achieved in various of those countries despite the large number of refugees. Turkey is still the country with the most refugee population in the world with over 3.7 million Syrians while Lebanon and Jordan have the highest number of refugees per capita in the world.

Human needs in Syria have increased meanwhile 6.9 million people are still inside the country, and 14.6 million people need human needs and other types of help, 5.9 million people need assistance searching for housing and many more still have the same problems searching for basic needs like health and education. Three quarters of all households in the country couldn't reach their basic needs in 2021, which is 10 percent more than the year before. However in 2021 the UNHCR approved the return of close to 36,000 refugees to Syria. This came for many reasons according to Sysrians some of them were their safety, property rights and livelihood opportunities. Many Sysrians have returned home and increased the need for reintegration.

We need political solutions badly to end the 11 years of suffering. The most desperate Syrian Refugees need to increase resettlement opportunities.

The UNHCR needs donors from all around the world to help the seriously damaged and in need Syrians and get them basic humanitarian needs. The humanitarian organization really



needs help from the world and needs many resources to decrease this situation. The UNHCR recollected 7 percent of the US\$465.2 million they need to work on Syria in 2022

Nations need to show their commitment to help the Syrians in the donor conference “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region” in May.

International Action

Over the years, the UN along with many countries have taken action and have decided to help Syrian refugees in many different ways. The UNHCR recently donated \$208.5 million dollars to more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees. A lot of countries have also started implementing resettlement programs. Countries such as Canada, Germany, USA, and more, have decided to help by hosting millions of Syrian refugees.

The EU and fellow member states lead in international donations toward Syrian refugees. Since the war began, they have donated over €30 billion in humanitarian aid, development, and economic stabilization. The United Nations have also intervened as they have been in talks with the Syrian government to try to find a solution to the ongoing conflict.

The UN has hosted many peace talks with many different countries in order to try to end the war and help refugees go back home safely. So far, these talks have not worked, but the UN continues to make more meetings for peace talks with some of the countries affected by the crisis, and hope to have the war ended soon.

Non-Governmental Organizations have also helped a lot in providing necessary resources and help to Syrian refugees, some of the help refugees have received include education, living support and medical support.

The UNHCR has been constantly helping individuals impacted by the current situation, providing food, housing, clean water, basic necessities, and medical attention to families who were compelled to evacuate their homes. Additionally, they have been working to rebuild civil structures and promote children's education and psychological treatment. The UNHCR increased the attempt to battle covid19 by creating quarantine sections, personal hygiene establishments, offering medical treatment, and providing protective equipment to medical facilities. In addition, they provided immediate financial support to almost 800,000 Syrians to cover their basic necessities. The UNHCR and its collaborators in the humanitarian sector have increased their attempts to assist both nations in response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and are asking for immediate international assistance. To individuals impacted by the earthquake, UNHCR alone has given blankets, beds, tents, and other vital necessities.



Recommendations for Creating a Resolution

- Make solutions for the Syrian Refugee Crisis.
- Consider what challenges host countries have and how to fix them.
- Remember the United Nations is unable to create laws, but can enforce them.
- Take into account the most prevalent causes of the problem.
- Consider the reasoning behind the refugee crisis and the civil war.
- Remember that your objective is to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Questions to Consider

1. Why did the crisis begin?
2. How have neighboring countries dealt with the issue?
3. What has the UN done about the issue?
4. What impact did the pandemic have on the refugee crisis?
5. How can you help the affected?
6. Why has this conflict not been resolved?
7. Who are the ones affected by this conflict?
8. How have countries around the world dealt with the conflict?



Research aid

[Syrian refugee crisis: Facts, FAQs, and how to help | World Vision](#)

[Syria situation | Global Focus](#)

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<https://www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/>

<https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do#:~:text=UNHCR%20works%20to%20protect%20refugees,education%2C%20work%20and%20health%20care.>

<https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/completed-projects/the-politics-of-the-syrian-refugee-crisis>

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UNHCR, U. (n.d.-a). Retrieved from [https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/syria-situation#:~:text=UNHCR%20has%20identified%20over%20610%2C00,23%2C500%20in%202018%E2%80%932019\).](https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/syria-situation#:~:text=UNHCR%20has%20identified%20over%20610%2C00,23%2C500%20in%202018%E2%80%932019).)

