



Human Rights Council

Ensuring the integration of
internally and internationally
displaced people

Forum: Human Rights Council (HRC)

Issue: Ensuring the integration of internally and internationally displaced peoples

Student Officer: Juliette Beilloin

Position: President of HRC

Table of Content

Introduction	2
Definition of Key Terms	3
General Overview	4
Conflict, Persecution and Natural Disasters	5
Policies and Legal Framework	5
Major Parties Involved	6
Timeline of Key Events	9
Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue	10
Possible Solutions	11
Appendices	12
Appendix A	12
Appendix B	12
Appendix C	12
Bibliography	12

Introduction

Whether caused by conflicts, persecutions or environmental disasters, individuals worldwide are displaced far away from their homes. As a result, countless individuals are deprived of stability, security and basic necessities which impart serious ramifications on the displaced, host nations and regions affected. Regardless of an individual's displacement status, everyone is entitled to their human rights. Despite the disruption of countries in conflicts, these needs must be accommodated by means that guarantee the safety, comfort and health of those affected by the conflict. Integration plays a major role in safeguarding the human rights of the displaced. Integration efforts can help relieve the circumstantial suffering from the aid and support of resources crucial to rebuild a life with dignity and security. Currently, 108.4 million displaced peoples are forced out of their homes due to national and/or international conflicts. As the Human Rights Council objectives are to “promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all” and in a world with the constant increase of global challenges, it is now the committee's responsibility to establish suitable solutions to ensure the integration of internally and internationally displaced peoples (Universal Rights Group).

Definition of Key Terms

Displacement

Displacement refers to the forced movement of individuals or groups from their homes due to various factors such as conflicts, persecution and environmental disasters.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons are individuals or groups that are forced to flee their homes but remain within their country's borders.

Refugees

Refugees are people forced from leaving their countries to seek safety abroad, usually neighbouring countries to combat situations occurring in their home country. The root cause of this issue may be due to rising conflicts, persecution or natural disasters.

Humanitarian aid

Humanitarian aid is assistance provided from humanitarian organisations, governments and international agencies to relieve suffering in the face of adversities. For instance, displaced people receiving basic human needs such as food, shelter and health care.

Social Cohesion

Social Cohesion refers to the degree of strength between the relationship and mutual trust between members of a community.

Integration

Integration is the process of incorporating displaced individuals or groups into the social, economical and political system of the host countries or communities.

Legal Frameworks

Legal frameworks are systems of legal documents containing rights, laws, obligations and

responsibilities of governments, companies and individuals.

Inclusion

Inclusion is the process of ensuring participation, representation and equal access to opportunities/rights/services for all, no matter the gender, race or nationality.

General Overview

The root cause of displaced peoples can originate from conflicts, persecution or even natural disasters that endanger the lives of citizens causing them to flee their homes. Each cause is unique and has its own differences, making it difficult to find a specific solution that caters to the overall issue. Ensuring the integration of internally and internationally displaced people is a pressing global challenge, by the end of 2022 108.4 million IDPs were forcibly displaced out of their homes. To put this into perspective, this is more than the population of the Netherlands (17.7 million), France (70 million) or Germany (83.8 million) (“Internally Displaced People”). This underscores the scale of the issue and needs to be addressed with effective solutions.

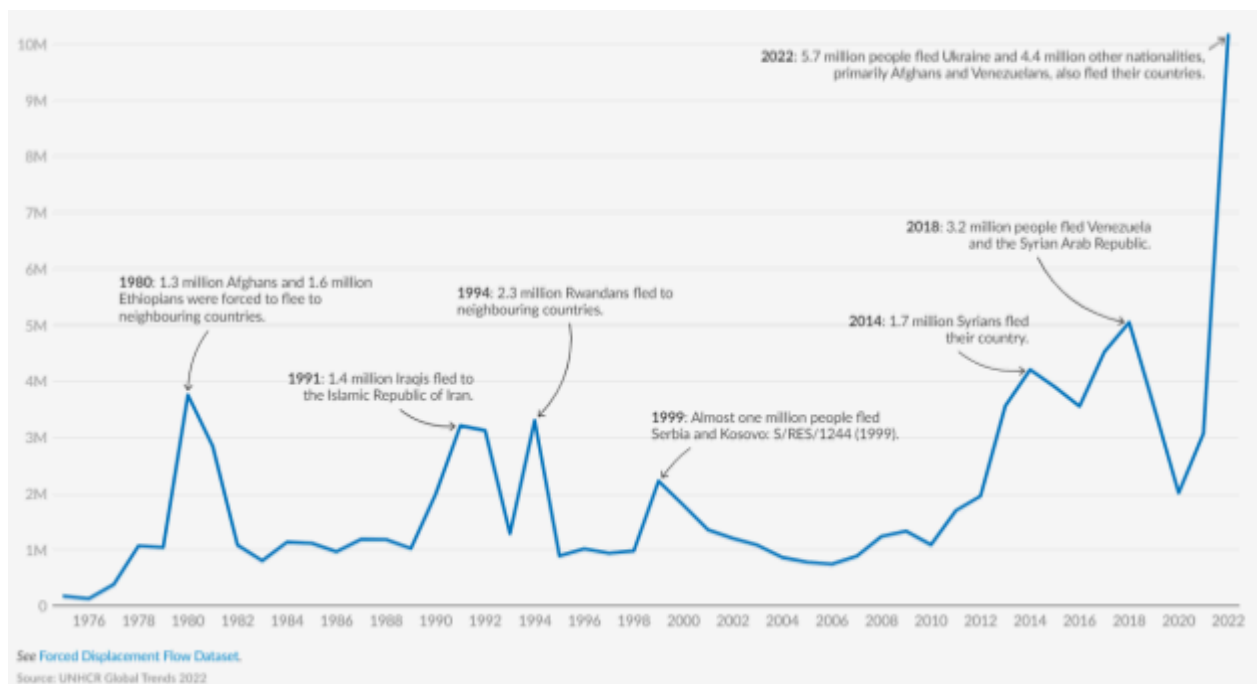


Figure 1 - Refugees, asylum-seekers and others in need of international protection displaced during the year | 1975 - 2022 (UNHCR 2023a)

Everett S. Lee has developed a theory called the “Push-Pull theory” which is a basic framework that allows us to understand international migration patterns. This theory is split into two

factors, the Push and Pull. Push is the driving factor that results in individuals being displaced such as conflicts, persecution or natural disasters. Pull is what attracts the displaced peoples with factors that promise safety, economic opportunity and better living conditions (Higgins 2020). Comprehending the dynamic of migration patterns is crucial to design targeted solutions for the different situations of causes of displacement. Depending on the amount of displaced peoples, level of urgency and cause of displacement, the situation may be evaluated to determine suitable solutions.

Conflicts, Persecution and Natural Disasters

Conflict is one of the major causes of the displacement of individuals, wars breach the safety of those who live within the borders of their home nations. An occurrence of many magnitudes, whether that is a civil war or a war against countries, danger arises forcing people to flee. The Syrian Civil war 2011, World War I, World War II, Russian invasion in Ukraine, Yemen Civil War, Israeli-Palestinian war and many others. For centuries, conflicts worldwide affected millions of populations, according to the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law, more than 45 armed conflicts are currently occurring with a majority taking place in the Middle East and North Africa. This being part of the 2nd most populated continent in our world stresses the importance of finding a solution to ensure the integration of the 108.4 million displaced peoples (“Internally Displaced People”). A notable armed conflict between the Taliban and the Afghan National Security forces in Afghanistan has forced 8.2 million people out of their homes, into the borders of neighbouring countries (“Afghanistan” n.d.). In response, countries like the U.S. and Germany have donated about 300 million and 140 million US dollars spent towards clean water, healthcare, education and food supplies to Afghanistan (Blinken 2022). However, funds and aid are not a complete solution to support the integration of the millions of displaced peoples being hosted in other countries or communities.

Others are forcibly displaced due to persecution or fleeing their homes due to its destruction from natural disasters. On February 6th 2023, an earthquake of a 7.8 magnitude hit Turkey near the border of Syria. An aftershock that led to more than 689,000 people to temporarily live in containers due to the fatal destruction of their homes. According to the UN, in Syria, the natural disaster exacerbated the effects of the ongoing war and deepening crisis for approximately 3,7 million children (“Six Humanitarian Crises That Impacted Refugees and Displaced Communities in 2023” 2024). The various causes, reasons and effects leading to the forcible displacement of individuals worldwide differs per each circumstance. Therefore, depending on their needs and requests, humanitarian assistance should be received to attempt to relieve the suffering of the many. Thus leading to their integration to different communities, countries or societies depending on the various factors explored.

Policies and Legal Frameworks

Policies and legal framework play a crucial role in shaping the responses and assistance towards the displacement of individuals. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol provide the legal framework for protecting the human rights of the displaced, along with obligations of states towards them. This serves as regulation to upkeep that enables the displaced to maintain their lives with hope and dignity. However, there remains gaps in international law regarding the protection and integration of displaced persons which results in lack of rights and needs that remain crucial at times of suffering. Countries like Germany and Spain have developed resettlement programs, language training and employment opportunities to facilitate their integration into their host countries. Other implementations such as cultural exchange activities or community based initiatives fosters social cohesiveness that is important to establish between the displaced and the host communities. Despite efforts for solutions, many challenges arise. The limited access to legal status and documentation prevents the displaced to partake in society and access essential services; education and employment. Issues like discrimination and xenophobia hinders integration efforts, leading to social exclusion and sense of not belonging. It is important to opt for solutions for the long term integration of the displaced.

Major Parties Involved

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is an international organisation dedicated to protecting and supporting refugees and the displaced worldwide. The entire legal basis of the UNHCR is under the jurisdiction of the 1951 Refugee Convention which works to ensure the safety of the lives or freedom endangered by rising conflicts. Since 1950 the UNHCR has supported and helped over 135 countries, by providing emergency assistance, protection and healthcare (“History of UNHCR” 1945). In the last decade, this organisation has helped almost 1 million refugees rebuild their lives in new countries by finding long term solutions. This organisation provides aid to people affected by conflicts, asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced people. The UNHCR advocates for improved asylum laws and systems so displaced people can access their rights using their vast networks of offices, partnerships with governments and NGOs. Strengthening laws and national systems ensures that the displaced can have access to documentation, education, work and health care.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

The International Organisation for Migration was first established in 1951 after the chaos and displacement of Western Europe following World War 2. This organisation has helped identify resettlement countries for over 11 million people uprooted by war and helped organise transport for almost 1 million migrants during the 1950's. IOM provides the logistics for man-made and natural disasters such as Hungary 1956, Chile 1973, the Vietnamese Boat People 1975 and Pakistan Earthquake 2004/2005 ("History of UNHCR" 1945). This international agency works towards the objectives of understanding migration issues, upholding human dignity and the wellbeing of migrants as well as encouraging social and economical development through migration with governments and civil society. Using an annual operating budget of an estimated USD 3 billion and more than 19,500 staff working in 171 countries worldwide, IOM has developed a strategic plan for 2024-2028 aimed at "delivering on the promise of safe, orderly, and regular migration while supporting the world's most vulnerable" (International Organization for Migration n.d.). This organisation has been most successful in reallocating and settling millions of displaced worldwide due to various causes. For instance, IOM's assistance efforts in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh. Following the mass of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh, approximately 700,000 people have been received in refugee camps established by this organisation. Along with clean water, sanitation facilities and healthcare services which have prevented further suffering for the refugees seeking safety from the violence in Myanmar (IOM 2014). Moreover, IOM has gone beyond providing immediate needs and has implemented programs to promote community resilience and empower the rebuilding of lives with hope and dignity. The organisation now works alongside the recommendation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) across the world using their experiences and partnerships with governments to plan responses and save lives at times of crisis.

Türkiye

Türkiye's geographical location is at the cross border of Europe and Asia and is of proximity to conflict-affected regions such as Syria, Iraq and Iran. This has led to hosting about 3.4 million internally displaced persons (IDS), the largest hosted populations worldwide, by providing refuge and shelter. Since the 2011 Syrian Civil War, Türkiye has opened its borders to millions of Syrians and offered shelter, protection and generous hospitality. Initiatives and measures have been implemented by the Turkish government for the establishment of temporary educational institutions to open for displaced Syrian children to maintain their education. As well as the implementation of work permits regulations that enable Syrians to participate in the work market legally while rebuilding their lives. Türkiye's involvement in being a host country and integrating thousands of refugees offer valuable insight for the global community to take examples of approaches to take when addressing the issue of displacement.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has faced a multitude of challenges involving war, instability and natural disasters that infringe upon its citizen's lives. The country has faced prolonged internal displacement of peoples as well as hosting neighbouring countries refugees; Pakistan and Iran. More than 8.2 million Afghans have fled their homes to 105 countries to seek safety. An estimated 85% of all Afghans are residing in Pakistan and Iran and a record of two thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance has been occurring for over 4 decades ("Afghanistan" n.d.). These numbers and data represent the overwhelming need to take action to ensure the integration of internally and internationally displaced peoples. As said by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Gandi; *"Afghanistan's displacement crisis is one of the largest and most protracted in UNHCR's seven-decade history. We're now seeing a third generation of Afghan children born in exile,"* (UNHCR 2023c).

Spain

Spain has a rich history for migration and displacement, such as during the Spanish Civil War (1930's) where citizens were forced out of their homes to maintain safety by fleeing the violence and persecution. Following World War 2, Spain became a location for political refugees and exiles from across Europe. In current years, Spain has faced challenges related to irregular migration patterns of the Middle East and North Africa. This includes conflicted areas such as Syria and Afghanistan. Over 100,000 asylum applications have been received in 2022 by Spain with most originating from countries like Peru, Venezuela and Colombia ("Refugees in Spain: Figures and Development" n.d.). Despite the increasing numbers of refugees needed to be taken in, Spain has implemented policies and programs to support their integration. Since December 2020, the European Commission has engaged with Spanish authorities to ensure effective migration management by strengthening the capacity to manage reception centres as well as reforming the asylum reception system. An example of this effective partnership occurring would be on May 17th and 18th 2021, when an irregular pattern of 10,000 refugees in Ceuta, a city in Spain. The European Commission granted 14 million Euros to manage the situation and increase the capacities in the island. The budget granted helped reform centres that identify and register migrants and emergency reception facilities with 6,000 spots ("Migration Management in Spain - European Commission" n.d.). This underscores the importance of social cohesiveness and international cooperation, especially coming from a historically experienced country, to understand the situation and offer assistance where needed.

Ukraine

Due to the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war, 3.7 million Ukrainians have been internally displaced and between February 24th 2022 to February 15th 2024, 6.5 refugees have been recorded worldwide. 5.5 million of which applied for asylum and national protection schemes in Europe (UNHCR n.d.). The main host countries are Germany, Czechia and Poland. Within the European Union, the Temporary Protection Directive was implemented to facilitate the large influx of refugees from Ukraine. This situation highlights the importance of promoting peace and implementing comprehensive measures strategies to ensure the integration of internally and internationally displaced peoples.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of Event
April 15th 2023	Armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan resulted in 7 million people forced out of their homes.
February 24th 2022 Ongoing	The Russian-Ukrainian war began.
2022 - Ongoing	Governments and humanitarian organisations globally attempt to implement integration programs that aim to provide education, healthcare, shelter, housing, social support and employment for displaced peoples.
December 17th 2021	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Global Compact on Refugees, which is a non-binding framework that emphasises the sharing of responsibilities, refugee self-reliance and inclusion in host countries or communities.
Throughout the year 2020	COVID-19 pandemic.
September 25th 2015	The United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes Goal 10 that is aimed at reducing inequalities internally and internationally. This includes the integration of the displaced peoples and refugees into host countries or communities.

2015	The Mediterranean Refugee Crisis occurred where 1 million refugees and migrants overcrowded crossed the ocean by boat to seek safety and legal asylum internationally.
July 14, 2014	The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2165 authorises cross border and the access to humanitarian aid for those in need in Syria due to the war conflict.
2011 - Ongoing	The Syrian Civil War has resulted in 6.8 million people displaced abroad.
April - July 1994	The genocide in Rwanda led to the displacement of thousands of refugees into neighbouring countries: Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
January 31st 1961	The Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees expands on the Refugee Convention of 1951 which covers for refugees globally regardless of their nationality or cause of conflict.
July 28th 1951	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Refugee Convention which established a legal framework for the protection and rights of refugees. This includes provisions for their integration in host countries or communities.
December 14th 1950	The United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is established, with the objectives to strengthen laws and national systems ensuring that the displaced can have access to documentation, education, work and health care.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Previous Resolutions passed by the United Nations

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 1961 Refugee Convention which established a legal framework for protection and rights for refugees. This laid the foundation to address the rights and needs of displaced individuals.
- Later, the 1967 Protocol expanded upon the 1961 Refugee Convention to cover for refugees globally.
- Resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council for humanitarian aid to access conflict areas like Resolution 2165 in 2014 for humanitarian aid in Syria.

- In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes a total of 17 SDG goals. More specifically Goal 10, aimed to reduce inequalities within and among countries.
- January 2028, the African Union Model Law on Internal Displacement was adopted by the African Union Summit, where chapter 11 entailed further regulations for durable solutions. Articles covered obligations, procedures for return and integration as well as guarantees upon return and integration.

Governments attempts to solve the issue

- Establishment of legal frameworks and policies to protect the rights of the displaced peoples. This includes legal residency or citizenship, employment opportunities, access to education and healthcare.
- Partnerships with humanitarian organisations to receive assistance, support and aid under the form of food, shelter, clean water, healthcare and psychosocial support.
- Development of integration programs including language and vocational training, housing support, job placement assistance and social integration assistance.
- Support migrant children's needs for an educational system
- All European countries have anti-discrimination laws that prohibit discrimination for job employment.

Possible Solutions

With a world of ever rising conflicts, whether they are man-made or natural disasters, countless people are being displaced currently which means there are many possible solutions to this evergoing issue. Conflicts will always cause disruptions within a nation's borders, affecting populations, agriculture and healthcare. Natural disasters such as earthquakes lead to mass destruction of shelters and buildings protecting the lives of many, this leading to the rising numbers of refugees and displaced people forced out of their homes. Although all root causes and reasons of refugees and displaced seeking shelter internally or internationally are different, there are countless solutions to ensure their integration within host countries or communities. In previous years, many international organisations have provided aid and logistics to nations and populations subjected to this issue. However the circumstances of each issue differ from another due to the difference of cause and residing countries affected, therefore making it difficult to identify the most effective solutions for all. Most assistance received is direct aid providing food, clean water and healthcare however to ensure the integration of displaced peoples internally or internationally it is encouraged to look forward to

solutions that help rebuild their lives with dignity. Alternative solutions that may be applicable in generality include:

- Financial aid
- Psychological support
- Humanitarian aid and Emergency relief
- International cooperation and collaboration
- Humanitarian access agreements
- Strengthening legal systems
- Legal protection
- Housing assistance
- Access to education
- Employment opportunities
- Social integration programs
- Community empowerment
- Language and culture integration

Appendix

Appendix A

Policy Responses to Support Afghans Fleeing Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/10/21/policy-responses-support-afghans-fleeing-taliban-controlled-afghanistan>. This website offers further information and ideas to what actions, policies and responses can governments and organisations offer to support the journey and integration of displaced peoples.

Appendix B

The 1951 Refugee Convention: <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/4ca34be29.pdf>. This official legal document published by the United Nations can help understand the issue that this committee is committed to resolve as it contains rights, obligations and responsibilities that governments and individuals must maintain for refugees.

Appendix C

Social Cohesion Program: <https://www.undp.org/iraq/social-cohesion>. An official United Nations Development Program page about social cohesion programs in Iran established in January 2020. Therefore containing information that could spark ideas and solutions to specific elements to include within a resolution for the integration of displaced peoples.

Bibliography

“Afghanistan.” n.d. UNHCR. Accessed May 5, 2024. <https://www.unhcr.org/countries/afghanistan>.

- Blinken, Anthony J. 2022. "United States Announces Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan." United States Department of State. September 23, 2022. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-announces-humanitarian-assistance-for-afghanistan/>.
- "Crisis Movements." 2022. Migration Data Portal. May 4, 2022. <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/ukraine/crisis-movements#:~:text=As%20of%20December%202023%2C%20an.>
- Higgins, Jenny. 2020. "Push and Pull Factors." Heritage.nf.ca. 2020. <https://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/society/push-pull-factors.php#:~:text=Push%20factors%20encourage%20people%20to.>
- "History of UNHCR." 1945. UNHCR. September 2, 1945. <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/history-unhcr.>
- "Internally Displaced People." n.d. UNHCR. Accessed May 5, 2024. <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/internally-displaced-people.>
- International Organization for Migration. n.d. "IOM Strategic Plan 2024-2028." International Organization for Migration. Accessed May 14, 2024. <https://www.iom.int/iom-strategic-plan-2024-2028.>
- IOM. 2014. "IOM History." International Organization for Migration. September 30, 2014. <https://www.iom.int/iom-history.>
- "Migration Management in Spain - European Commission." n.d. Home-Affairs.ec.europa.eu. Accessed May 5, 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/migration-management-spain_en.
- "Refugees in Spain: Figures and Development." n.d. Worlddata.info. Accessed May 5, 2024. <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/spain/asylum.php#:~:text=118%2C747%20asylum%20applications%20by%20refugees.>
- Refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for. 2023. "What We Do." UNHCR. 2023. <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do.>
- "Six Humanitarian Crises That Impacted Refugees and Displaced Communities in 2023." 2024. Ww.unrefugees.org. January 3, 2024. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/six-humanitarian-crises-that-impacted-refugees-and-displaced-communities-in-2023/>.
- "Solutions for Displacement | EMM2." 2017. Emm.iom.int. 2017. <https://emm.iom.int/handbooks/solutions-and-recovery/solutions-displacement#:~:text=There%20are%20three%20main%20durable.>

- “Today’s Armed Conflicts - the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.” n.d. Geneva-Academy.ch. Accessed May 6, 2024. <https://geneva-academy.ch/galleries/today-s-armed-conflicts#:~:text=This%20is%2C%20in%20numbers%2C%20the.>
- . n.d. “Ukraine.” Global Focus. Accessed May 14, 2024. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/operations/ukraine#:~:text=Attacks%20by%20missiles%2C%20rockets%20and.>
- UNHCR. 2023a. “Global Trends.” *UNHCR*, April 6, 2023. <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends.>
- . 2023b. “The 1951 Refugee Convention.” *UNHCR*, April 24, 2023. <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/1951-refugee-convention.>
- . 2023c. “Afghanistan Refugee Crisis Explained.” *Www.unrefugees.org*. July 18, 2023. [https://www.unrefugees.org/news/afghanistan-refugee-crisis-explained/.](https://www.unrefugees.org/news/afghanistan-refugee-crisis-explained/)
- United Nations. 2023. “UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency.” *Unhcr.org*. 2023. [https://www.unhcr.org/.](https://www.unhcr.org/)
- . 2024. “The 17 Sustainable Development Goals.” United Nations. United Nations. 2024. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals.>
- “What Measures Are in Place to Ensure the Long-Term Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Europe? | European Website on Integration.” 2020. *Migrant-Integration.ec.europa.eu*. March 31, 2020. https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/special-feature/what-measures-are-place-ensure-long-term-integration-migrants-and-refugees-europe_en.