



Beginner United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN PALESTINE AND SYRIA

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Background Guide

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Introduction to the UNHCR

Welcome to the council on peacefully resolving the Palestinian, Syrian and Yemen Refugee Crises.

It is the job of the UNHCR to take the lead in securing individuals compelled to escape wars and

mistreatment around the globe. The UNHCR gives life-sparing guides including shelter, nourishment, and water to guarantee refugee essential wellbeing, rights, and nobility. The overall agenda of this Security Council is to resolve the matters at hand and maintain peace and security.

Topic 1: Palestinian Refugee Crisis

The Palestinian refugee crisis stemmed from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. This was the second, and final, stage of the war. It broke out when five Arab nations invaded Israel, just after they declared independence. The ongoing war caused around 700,000 Palestinians Arabs to flee. Whether it was to avoid the conflicts and devastation of war, keep from the behest of Arab leaders, or were forced to flee by fighting individuals or groups. However, they thought that they would return after the certain Arab victory over the new Jewish state. Of the Palestinians who left, 33% went toward the West Bank, 33% went to the Gaza Strip, and the rest to Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

Arab countries wouldn't let these Palestinians become their citizens. Instead, they were put into refugee camps, demanding that citizen integration would undermine the evacuees' entitlement to come back to their homes in Palestine.

Additionally, during the 1967 Six-Day War, an estimated 300,000 Palestinians were forced to flee by Israeli forces. The destruction of the Palestinian towns of Imwas, Yalo, and Bayt Nuba, Surit, Beit Awwa, Beit Mirsem, Shuyukh, Al-Jiftlik, Agarith, and Huseirat resulted in many Palestinians to be displaced persons.

The UNWRAs statistics show 5,000,000 Palestinian refugees. However, the specific number is still a matter of intense debate. Currently, Palestinians request that refugees must have a “right of return” to

their former homes inside Israel. But, this right is denied by Israel. They say that there is no foundation in international law for a Palestinian “right of return”, and believe the problem does not lay in a return to Israel. Israel additionally contends that an "arrival" isn't reasonable for such a little state, given that the flood of a great many Palestinians into Israel would represent a danger to its national security and upset the nation's segment cosmetics. In 1993, the PLO perceived Israel's entitlement to exist and focused on an arranging procedure to build up a free Palestinian state close to the State of Israel. Given this reality, American Presidents including President Bill Clinton, President George W. Shrub and President Barack Obama have freely expressed that Palestinian evacuees ought to be appropriately resettled into a future Palestinian state and not inside Israel.

None of these dislodged people are permitted to come back to the homes or networks from which they were uprooted. The Palestinian displaced person populace has continued to develop in the years since 1948. Today, there are in excess of 7 million Palestinian evacuees spread over multiple nations. The Palestinian uprooting is at the center of the Palestinian experience and the Palestinian displaced person issue is at the core of the Palestinian-Israeli clash.

Palestinians that hold Israeli citizenship and were uprooted from their homes in 1948 are still not permitted to come back to their houses, towns, and land because their presence is seen as a threat to the maintenance of a sustainable Jewish demographic majority in the new state. An extra 130,000 Palestinians are individuals or the relatives of individuals who were inside dislodged in the involved Palestinian region because of the 1967 War. This group involves individuals who have had their ID cards and residency rights renounced, individuals denied family reunification and individuals who have been ousted and exiled.

Timeline

As a general timeline, the Palestinian refugee crisis can be categorized throughout three major events:

- The biggest gathering of Palestinian evacuees is comprised of Palestinians who fled or were ousted from their homes because of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Starting in 2014 this included roughly 5 million exiles who are enlisted with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and an extra one million Palestinians who were uprooted in 1948 yet who couldn't or didn't enlist with UNRWA for help.
- The second-largest group of Palestinian refugees stemmed in 1967. In 1967, Israel retained the entirety of recorded Palestine and the additional territory from Egypt and Syria. Before the end of the war, Israel had ousted another 300,000 Palestinians from their homes, including 130,000 who were dislodged in 1948, and picked up territory that was three and a half times its size.
- The third largest of Palestinian outcasts incorporates Palestinians who have been internally dislodged from the previous two events to the current day. This includes Palestinians who had to escape their homes or towns in 1948 and 1967 were not permitted to come back to their homes, yet stay present in either Israel or the involved Palestinian domains. Currently, there are around 350,000 Palestinians who live inside the post-1948 fringes of Israel and who hold Israeli citizenship. They were dislodged from their homes in 1948 and are still not permitted to come back to their notable homes, towns, and land - which are all situated inside Israel's post-1948 outskirts. An extra 130,000 Palestinians are individuals or the relatives of individuals who were internally dislodged in the involved Palestinian domain because of the 1967 War.

Sample positions

Israel

The Israeli government doesn't perceive Palestinian exiles' desire to return and keeps on saying that Palestinian outcasts and their relatives can't be permitted to come back to the homes and networks from which they were uprooted in light of the fact that their arrival would be a danger to the maintenance of the Jewish demographic majority.

The United States

The U.S government has not formally turned out on the side of the Israeli position and against the privilege of return. Be that as it may, all through the negotiations procedure, US authorities have pushed Palestinians to surrender and additionally make the privilege of return emblematic.

Syria

The underlying convergence of Palestinians in Syria was significant (90,000–100,000), and the legislature, through a progression of laws, slowly made ready for their reconciliation into the Syrian socio-economic structure while safeguarding their individual Palestinian character and values.

Helpful Sources:

<https://www.afsc.org/resource/palestinian-refugees-and-right-return>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/arab-israeli-war>

<https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLlMhiw>

Guiding Questions

How will military involvement negatively contribute to the refugee crisis?

How should the UN hold countries responsible for foreign military intervention in the Palestinian Refugee Crisis?

What can the global community do to help re-establish a stable Palestinian economy?

Topic II: Refugees of The Syrian Civil War

The Syrian Uprising was caused by the “Arab Spring” in 2011 during which many successful revolutions occurred and toppled Tunisia's and Egypt's presidents. In turn, many Syrian pro-democracy activists became inspired to begin many peaceful protests around the nation. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, however, responded to the protests by killing hundreds of demonstrators and imprisoning many more. As a result, The Free Syrian Army was founded to overthrow the government and in 2011, the Syrian War began in earnest.

Specifically, the Syrian Civil War is an ongoing multi-sided common war in Syria being fought between the Ba'athist Syrian Arab Republic, ruled by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and aided by various residential and remote partners, as well as different local and outside powers. The war is currently the second deadliest of the 21st century. Even before the conflict began, many Syrians, under President Bashar al-Assad, dealt with corruption, high unemployment, and a lack of political freedom in their country.

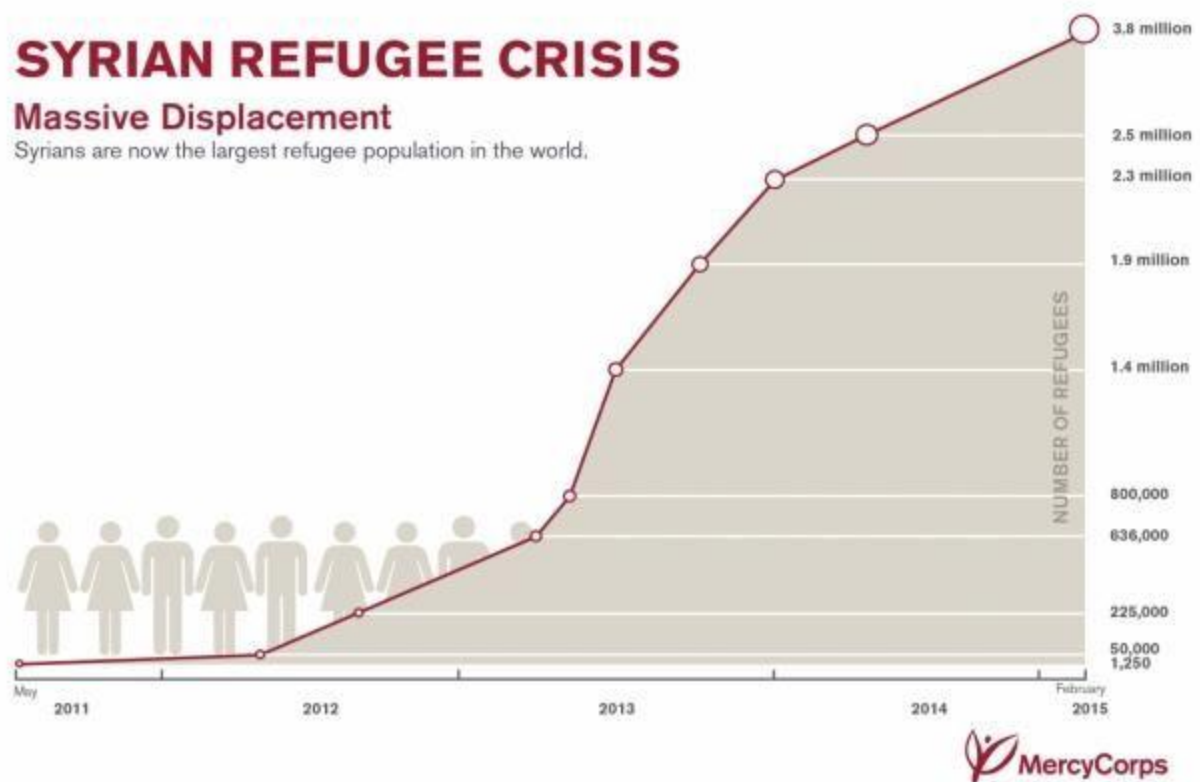
The war in 2011 caused major unrest in the major cities of Damascus and Aleppo. The war is being fought by several factions, including, Sunni opposition rebel groups, the Syrian Armed Forces and its international allies, Salafi jihadist groups (including al-Nusra Front), and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The conflict, however, is not strictly limited to these groups as a large number of countries in the region and beyond are also either directly involved or provide support to a certain group (Iran, Russia, Turkey, the United States, as well as others).

The progressing violence against regular citizens has been denounced by the Arab League, the European Union, the United States, and more. As of March 2019, around 5.7 million Syrians have fled the nation according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and more than 6.1 million individuals are internally dislodged. When the war started in 2011, there were four principal groups battling throughout the nation: Kurdish powers, ISIL, other resistance, (for example, Jaish al Fateh) and the Assad Administration. However, as ISIL lost control of a large portion of its territory, soldiers were free to assault one another.

Internationally, the governments of majority-Shia Iran and Iraq, and Lebanon-based Hezbollah have supported Assad, while Sunni-majority countries, including Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia support anti-Assad rebels. In 2016, Turkish troops launched several operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and ISIL near its borders. Additionally, Kurdish groups were often armed by the United States. Peace negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition forces have been ongoing and have attempted to achieve order for a military ceasefire and political transition in Syria. However, success has been halted due to the negative interference of Assad. In December 2017, a failed retaliation between the Syrian government and opposition governments occurred over statements about Assad's future roles and his transitional government.

Nearly the same number of Syrians – more than 6.1 million – have been dislodged inside their own nation, as indicated by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Strife and catastrophic events removed 819,000 Syrians inside the country for the first half of 2019. Of individuals who have fled Syria, the largest portion remained in the Middle East. The rest have relocated to Europe, with an additional percentage venturing out to North America.

Many countries do not accept refugees due to the fact that asylum seekers are not part of their governments. These countries include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, etc. (Gulf States). These Arabs claim no legal obligation to provide sanctuary to these people and therefore give no preferential treatment to those with a “refugee” status. Syrian refugees are also not welcome in many Eastern European Nations due to religious affiliations. Citizens in these countries that identify themselves as Muslims were the least likely to say their countries should not accept any Syrian refugees. Whereas, those who consider themselves secular or atheist are less willing to accept refugees. Thus, it is evident that religion shapes these European countries’ views towards refugees



The graph above shows the increasing number of displaced Syrians

Timeline

- **2011** - Marked the Beginning of unrest in Syria. Protesters were imprisoned and the free Syrian army emerged. Many Syrian families began to flee their homes. In Turkey, the first refugee camps open
- **2012** - UNHCR and Jordanian authorities open Za'atari Refugee Camp. This year, it hosted around 120,000 refugees. In December, The number of Syrians seeking refuge in other countries first reached half a million.
- **2015** - The number of Syrian refugees tops the four million mark. The UN Security Council expresses much alarm over the crisis in Syria. Estimate wise, this crisis is said to have claimed 250,000 lives and displaced 12 million people. Also, the image that created much attention to the Syrian crisis was, the body of a Syrian toddler that washed up on a Turkish beach after a failed attempt to reach Greece. UNHCR teams in Greece and other transit countries are continuing to work to offer protection and support to those arriving in Europe in search of safety.
- **2019/2020** - About 60 percent of Syrian evacuee family units in Lebanon currently live in extraordinary destitution (under US\$2.87 per individual every day) this is compelling families to settle on intense decisions. Over the locale, UNHCR ventures increase help for uprooted Syrians to support them for another winter.

Sample positions

The United States

The U.S Intends to concede a limit of 18,000 exiles in 2020. This went down from a top of 30,000 on Sept. 30, 2019, under another refugee roof, set by the Trump organization. This would be the most reduced number of exiles resettled by the U.S in a solitary year since 1980 when Congress made the country's displaced person resettlement program.

Hungary

Hungary has been accused of starving Syrian refugees in its custody and depriving them of human rights. Many refugees have said that Hungary has been the worst experience they have had on their journey.

France

France is working to ensure that it ensures long-term stability for the fled Daesh in order to avoid resurgence from terrorist groups. It is, therefore, supporting several NGOs, housing many refugees, and supports many multilateral bodies that are active on the ground.

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<https://www.unhcr.org/ph/13427-seven-years-timeline-syria-crisis.html>

Guiding Questions

1. What comprehensive plans can the UNHCR propose for Syrian War Refugees?
2. What responsibility do developed nations have for accepting refugees from this conflict?
3. How can the UNHCR help displaced persons being mistreated by hostile nations?
4. What can the UNHCR do to end the conflict in Syria and prevent more in the future?

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