



## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Background Guide**

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## **Notes from the Chair**

Hello, delegates; here is your background guide for the UNHRC. I kept the length relatively short but full of packed information due to the general topics provided that should allow a wealth of freedom for you to employ at the conference. Understand each of the positions is actively being discussed in the actual United Nations that I read into daily. The sources I provided should help you understand the topic, its value, and how to formulate your country's stance on the matter. The background guide is broken into easy-to-digest pieces and even explains actions this body would take in the real world. I wish the best of luck to you, and if you have any questions, please message the provided email.

### **Overview**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was formed in the 1950s, shortly after the end of World War II. The goal was to resettle and aid displaced and homeless Europeans who had lost their homes towards the end of the war in areas on all sides. Today the activities of the UNHCR have expanded, but the goal remains the same, to aid and stabilize refugees. Specifically, they focus on access to shelter, health services, stabilization, safety, and resettlement. In recent years we have seen up to Seventeen thousand six hundred staff members be recruited to the UNHCR and 87% of which have been noted to be active in the field aiding refugees.



## **UNHCR Operational Background**

The UNHCR has mainly been an assistive and boots on the ground for understanding the global refugee crisis. They work by employing strategies across countries and developing systematic help for needy refugees. The UNHCR has defined a refugee as someone who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war, or violence. This is commonly mistaken with the term immigrant, which is not the parameter of the assistive goal the UNHCR presents. The UNHCR, above all, has been a representative and solution-providing body that helps receiving nations and developing countries tackle growing refugee problems. Assistance through resettlement, aid, education, guidance, integration efficiency, and medical aid has been employed transnationally. The goal of these is to make the interworking of receiving refugees and assisting them more efficient, but the body itself has no formal enforcing power. The UNHCR works through resolution papers to formulate decisions and is highly valued for cooperation and efficiency in tackling these problems.

### **I. Closing the Education Gap between Refugees and Developing Countries**

#### **Brief on Receiving Countries**

As conditions in developing countries continue to grow the refugee crisis throughout the world seems to be ever-increasing. In 2018, out of an estimated 25.4 million refugees that are children, only 18.7 million of these were educated past a primary school level. Policy across the world has allowed the standard for children in developed countries to remain constant at a 92.8% in-school rate. As refugees continue to enter and become assimilated into countries the gap is alarming, and the United Nations has expressed deep concern over this matter. The UNHCR, the refugee agency for the United Nations, has gathered information from over 40 countries receiving mass refugee and have found that even when resettled the enrolment rate of children has been found to be 34%. This would be a drastic disconnect from the settled population and efforts have been made to try and solve this patch as it has been a paramount issue for resettlement. On a deeper level, a strategy of engagement is currently in place to help introduce the options to the entering families which have seen some increase. Dividing the children into schooling groups of primary and secondary the numerical entries are drastically low. Alone we see that a little over 62% of resettled refugee children have entered secondary school, and an even lower 20% have entered primary school. Since the UNHCR involvement, we have seen these numbers increase from 1% to even 5% all around, and with increasing engagement, these numbers seem to rise. In the field of these developing countries losing refugees, the actual numbers are even lower.

### **Brief on Developing Countries**

The UNHCR has observed a decrease in the prioritization of education in developing countries due to war or labor shortages. Alone the UNHCR observed in Niger that 63 Million children lost school due to a lack of funding and developing issues due to conflict. This resulted in a systemic migration which has shifted the dynamic of the country. A lot of Migration patterns have shown a northern track for the African routes causing increased pressure in Europe and the middle east has seen a western migration. Along with these journeys, an increased prioritization of survival over education has been noted even with the relief systems in place. Even places from South

America have seen massive refugee exits as well. Noted in 2020 that over 6 Million refugees globally came from South America and have seen to impact on the United States of America and even Europe. These countries have been noted to lack sufficient funds to maintain living standards for education development. The Middle East as well has had nine ongoing conflicts since 2022 and has seen a 76% drop in the prioritization of schooling over systemic law enforcement and war support. UNHCR has predicted that over 18.5 million people will enter a concerned living status and 2.5 Million have already started the process of seeking asylum.

### **Active 2030 UNHCR Plan**

Currently the UNHCR has employed over 17,000 agents in the field to work on these enumerating tasks. Specifically, 68% of their forces are dedicated to receiving and assisting countries in providing children with education. The goal currently is to increase education after a recollection of the 2011 survey of international refugee education efforts and has its goal set on furthering the engagement strategy that is currently at play. The UNHCR has encouraged and implored other countries on a goal to help education for refugees by promoting equitable and sustainable inclusion in national education systems for refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, stateless and internally displaced persons; fostering safe, enabling environments that support learning for all students, regardless of legal status, gender or disability; enabling learners to use their education toward sustainable futures. They are hoping by 2030, they can achieve their mission statement of fostering the conditions, partnerships, collaboration, and approaches that lead to all refugee, asylum seeker, returnee, and stateless children and youth and their hosting communities, including the internally displaced in those communities, to access inclusive and equitable quality education that enables them to learn, thrive and develop their potential, build individual and collective resilience, and contribute to peaceful coexistence and civil society. This goal was developed over time and has been refined over several quantitative sampling of refugee children populations over the course of 2014, 2016, and 2018. The UNHCR has an ultimate goal to create

self-sufficiency at the heart of this 2023 strategy and be able to incorporate and integrate these refugees into new, more stable countries.

## **II. Integration and Resettlement of Refugees into the Economy and Receiving Countries**

### **Brief on Receiving Countries**

Ever since the Cold War, the amount of destabilized countries has increased drastically worldwide, causing a variety of immigration and refugee crises to erupt. The International organization for Migration has reported a diverse count of over a million refugees trying to enter Europe yearly. These organizations have also reported that over 80% use dangerous means of travel and risk their lives trying to enter these countries. They also have reported that over 62% have found problems becoming apart and culturally fitting into these systems. The result of this disconnect has resulted in the rise in crime inside these countries. France, Germany, and the United Kingdom have faced hundreds of attacks from these refugee groups. Reports from independent national organizations have observed the impact of the disconnect from normal life and jobs has caused severe unrest in the population. In the United States and across the Central American countries, border agencies have observed over 178,000 refugees and immigrants a month doing transnational crosses to reach the American border. These refugees are often met internationally with camps, and border systems have found that over 15% will find criminal charges brought against them within the first three months. Countries on the receiving end have found it necessary to expand resources for interception. The strain of refugee numbers has also caused conflicts with the control of the European Union, and the problem seems to be growing each day.

### **Brief on Developing Countries**

Countries have been being destabilized since the early 1950s, which has caused a swarm of people to mass relocate. Currently, We see Islamic terrorist groups hitting

from Nigeria to Sudan, and they have caused mass damage to countries in Africa that have seen frequent bombings and military brutality. Africa, over the years, has seen a northern trek of refugees trying to make it to Europe. The recent news in the middle east surrounding Afghanistan has caused over a million afghans to be displaced and seek shelter. According to the UNHCR, Afghanistan's displacement crisis is one of the largest and most protracted in UNHCR's seven-decade history. We're now seeing the third generation of Afghan children born in exile. The needs of Afghan citizens who have had to flee suddenly are acute, increasing demand for shelter, food, water, and health services. UNHCR has protected and supported the needs of nearly 1 million displaced Afghans since the start of 2021. They have shown as well that over 70% of Afghan refugees have been seen risking their life and family over escaping to a more developed country. It is been noted as well that the amount of refugee-producing countries is increasing yearly. Each of these countries as well as also shown a displacement of financial resources that have severely impacted internal improvement.

### **Brief on Current Strategies**

The UNHCR has observed the influx of refugees displaced in different countries, a crisis as crime and destabilization are reaching the receiving countries. The UNHCR has stated its policy of integration as a dynamic and multifaceted two-way process. It leads to full and equal membership in society as it prepares refugees to adapt to their host societies without giving up cultural identity, while equally preparing the receiving communities and institutions to welcome refugees and meet the needs of a diverse population. According to the current 2023 partnership plan having a job and becoming part of the labor market in a receiving country is a significant step for refugees. The goal of this is to obtain self-reliance and successful integration, which will stabilize these countries.

They have stated that in order to foster refugee labor market inclusion and mobilize the private sector for various refugee employment initiatives. The UNHCR cooperates with Diversity Charters in the Baltic countries and the Tent Partnership for Refugees in the Nordic countries. On the flip side of developing countries, the UNHCR has seen that aid

relief towards refugees and smoothing out transition programs have worked. They have deployed agents to try and mitigate the crisis and provide relief for these struggling families. They have utilized organizations such as the Red Cross and have partnered with participating countries to smooth out the process and health of the crises in these countries

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