

# TED ANTALYA MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2019



**Forum:** SOCHUM

**Issue:** Ensuring safe and impartial work environments for refugees

**Student Officer:** Deniz Ağcaer

**Position:** President Chair

## **INTRODUCTION**

In today's world, refugees face problems in seeking their basic needs. These needs can be basically listed as health opportunities, housing and safe work opportunities. However, as NGOs and other organizations come together to actually work on the issue, a major concern among these listed needs is providing sustainable work opportunities for refugees. Refugees are people whom are forced to leave their countries and their homes because they fear for their lives or persecution based on who they are or what they believe. Either it be because of their race and ethnicity or their sexual preference. Refugees are often permanently displaced but then can never return back home. The fact that they don't speak the language, aren't familiar to the culture and have a long adaptation time to the country they fled to makes it hard for them to search for or in this case in order to find a job because the jobs offered to refugees are very limited in many countries at this era.

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

**Volunteer:** A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. This may also be volunteering to help seek refuge or providing for refugees.

**Immigrant:** A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

**Refugee:** Is a person who is outside their country of citizenship because they have well-founded grounds for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and is unable to obtain sanctuary from their home country or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country.

**Asylum-seekers:** An asylum-seeker is a person who is seeking international protection, but whose status has not yet been determined. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on. It can also refer to someone who has not yet submitted an application but may be in need of international protection. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee in such countries is initially an asylum-seeker.

**Resettled refugees:** Resettled refugees have been selected and transferred from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State which has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent residence status. The status provided ensures protection against refoulement, whereby no person may be returned in any manner whatsoever to a country or territory where they may be at risk of persecution, torture, or other forms of serious or irreparable harm, and provides a resettled refugee and his/her family or dependents with access to rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals

**Immigration:** Process through which individuals become permanent residents or citizens of a new country. Historically, the process of immigration has been of great social, economic, and cultural benefit to states. The immigration experience is long and varied and has in many cases resulted in the development of multicultural societies; many modern states are characterized by a wide variety of cultures and ethnicities that have derived from previous periods of immigration.

**Xenophobia:** Fear and hatred towards strangers or foreigners which can be listed as one of the many reasons why refugees are alienated in the country they fled to and aren't provided with various job opportunities.

**Financial Aid:** Financial aid stated on the agenda means helping refugees by giving money to them or giving any other financial support. Example of financial aid can be onetime household start-up allowance or monthly income support payment, which is already implemented in Canada

**Host Country:** The country to which a refugee relocates.

**Asylum Seeker:** A person who has moved across international borders in search of protection and filed a claim for asylum with the host country's government. While the government reviews the claim, the person remains an asylum seeker. If the claim is accepted, the person becomes a "refugee" in the eyes of the government. For example, someone from Syria who is living in Germany and waiting to hear the outcome of his or her asylum application would be considered an asylum seeker.

**Naturalization:** People of citizenship other than that of the country in question (host country) who obtain nationality of that country

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

In today's world we have been facing the largest global refugee crisis in history. Millions of people have been forced to move from their homes. The suffering is immeasurable. Among them are particularly survivors of torture, people with severe medical conditions, orphaned children, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Many of these people have no option but to seek a third country. Today, one in every 122 people in the world is currently either a refugee, IDP (internally displaced person) or seeking asylum. War, persecution and poverty continue to drive people from their country, hoping for a better future.

The war in Syria raged on for six years and caused a staggering 11 million people to flee their homes with the hope of a better life. This was recorded as the largest refugee crisis of our time. More than six million were displaced internally and five million fled to nearby countries to save their lives searching for safety. Though many fled to nearby countries but are still living precarious lives. The so called 'Syrian refugee crisis' is now approaching its eight year and has resulted in the displacement of half the pre-war population. Which means nearly more than six million people are displaced within the country and five million seeked asylum in neighboring countries.

In this “crisis” Turkey does deserve credit for both opening up livelihood and educational reserves for refugees along with employing and giving refugees citizenship opportunities. With the chaotic environment taking over Syria, and Turkey hosting most of their citizens along with its own civilians making the atmosphere severe and limiting all opportunities including job offerings and employment rate. Right now, Turkey isn’t able to employ all of its citizens disregarding the fact that there are 3.5 million refugees searching for sustainable job opportunities in the country along with civilians. Other governments, including the United States and EU Member States, must help Turkey through targeted and tailored assistance. Otherwise the future doesn’t seem to be too bright for refugees living in this host country. In early 2016, Turkey introduced a system of work permit issuance for Syrian refugees. As Refugees International (RI) has noted in a report, Turkey’s decision was a major step though nearly two years later, the reality happens to be that these work permits remain inaccessible for the majority of refugees in Turkey.

Both Syrian business owners and employees need to have work permits and there are now at least 6,000 Syrian-owned businesses in Turkey. However, for those who are not able or not interested in opening their own businesses, work permits are rare. Employers must apply for the work permit on behalf of the refugee they seek to employ, pay a fee and prove they cannot find a Turkish citizen to fulfill the role.

As pockets of hostility towards Syrian refugees appear to be increasing, a need exists for strong incentives from the Turkish government and from the international community, including the private sector, to encourage employers to hire refugees, maximizing the expertise that refugees bring while utilizing the work permit system now in place.

“The problem is that Turkey classifies us still guests rather than civilians or refugees” stated a Syrian refugee living in Turkey.

The non-EU (European Union) born in the EU have on average weaker labor market outcomes than the native-born population both in terms of their employment levels and their transitions from unemployment back to jobs. Refugees represent one of the most vulnerable groups of migrants on the labor market. Refugees have on average lower employment rates than other migrant groups except family migrants. The employment rate of refugees varies widely across Member States (UNHCR). In Belgium, France, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia, refugees fare better than other non-EU born migrants. Inversely, in Finland, the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal the employment rate of refugees is lower by at least 10 percentage points. Once unemployed, refugees have difficulties to return to employment. Among the economically active refugees, one in five were unemployed in 2014, one in eight were unemployed for 12 months or longer and about one in fourteen were unemployed for 2 years or longer. In other words, the long term unemployed made up 60% of the unemployed refugees, more than half which were unemployed for longer than 2 years.

Refugees in 2014 faced a long-term unemployment rate twice as high as that of natives and more than twice the very long-term unemployment rate of natives. They also had significantly higher risk of long-term and very-long-term unemployment than other non-EU born persons. These findings are also true for all third country migrants.

Bringing refugee women into employment is a particular challenge. Low education and low labor market participation do contribute to the trend, as well. The employment rate for refugee

women is on average 45%. It is lower than for other female non-EU born and native-born women.

Labor market integration of the refugees and other non-EU borns differ considerably by origin. Countries of origin reflect a combination of factors such as the duration of stay in the host country for a specific refugee wave, the language proficiency and the level of education.

Country-effects capture the fact that migrant's distribution across host-countries is different from the host countries relative size (of their native populations). Migrants, especially refugees, tend to be overrepresented in countries where the labor market is relatively stable and unemployment is low and thus this is extremely significant.

As for education the share of high-educated people in the age group 25-64 years amongst refugees and family migrants can be compared to the share amongst native-born people. However, their share of low-educated people is much higher. This explains, a part of the observed difference regarding employment.

## **MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED**

**Turkey:** Hosts nearly 3.3 million registered refugees, mostly from Syria. The country has shown exemplary openness, and has made considerable efforts to support Syrians despite the strain on social services. It has facilitated their access to critical public services including health, housing, education and social assistance. Recognizing that refugees cannot rely solely on social assistance; however, the government of Turkey passed a regulation in January 2016 to allow Syrian refugees to obtain formal work permits. The goal was to help Syrian refugees be economically independent, graduate from social assistance, and contribute to the Turkish economy. Low education levels and limited data on the types of skills and experiences of Syrians living in Turkey are further barriers to facilitating their employment. Data from before the war show that in the provinces near the Turkish border, Syrians' educational attainment was low compared with that of Turkish people.

**Germany:** Since the height of the so-called refugee crisis in 2015, Germany has accepted around 830,000 asylum applications. Given the country's ageing population, falling birth rate and decreasing availability of skilled workers, fully utilizing refugees' capacities in the labor market has the potential to result in wide-scale socio-economic benefits.

**Denmark:** Since 2015 Denmark has turned the employment of refugees into a national strategy. Through a tripartite agreement with the Confederation of Danish Employers and Local Government Denmark (the union of municipalities) this reconfiguration of thinking about integration has reverberated throughout municipal and corporate Denmark. For example, a major initiative was set up by the eight municipalities of Copenhagen to establish refugee internships, for which promotional posters have been distributed around the capital. Employment initiatives aimed at refugees have also been established in larger companies

**Jordan:** The Government of Jordan, in partnership with the U.N., donors, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), has recently produced a three-year refugee response plan ("Jordan Response Plan to the Syria Crisis 2016-2018"). The JRP 2016-2018 lays out a comprehensive plan to move from a crisis response framework to a resilience-based approach.

While the international community has supported this plan, total financial commitments to date total only 8.9 percent of the \$2.67 billion required to implement it.

**The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR):** Established by the United Nations, the UNHCR is an international organization responsible for the protection of refugees worldwide. In many refugee contexts, refugees are engaged by UNHCR and by partners as “incentive workers” to undertake jobs in connection with the provision of assistance and services to the displaced community, both within and outside camps.

**Uganda:** The Government of Uganda has made self-reliance central to the country’s approach towards hosting refugees. Currently, Uganda hosts more than one million refugees of diverse nationalities, including from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, South Sudan and Rwanda, who live in both rural camps and urban areas. Refugees in Uganda generally enjoy the right to work, freedom of movement within the country, and access to basic services. Such policies have an important role in facilitating refugees to engage in business activities and enable them to become embedded within local and national markets and industries in Uganda.

**IRC:** The International Rescue Committee helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and regain control of their future.

**ORAMT:** Their mission is to enable the international community to protect exceptionally vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. To this end, they dedicate themselves to delivering innovative tools, cutting-edge research and empirically-based assessment programs for refugee professionals around the world.

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
1950	Creation of UNHCR by the UN General Assembly
May 2011	First camps for refugees open in Turkey
March 2013	Number of UN registered Syrian refugees reaches 1 million, half of them being children
2014	Syria becomes the main country for refugee applications in the EU. - UNHCR estimates at 59.5 million the numbers of forcibly displaced worldwide, the highest rate since the WW2.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE**

- Vocational training courses in bakery, hairdressing and tailoring (each of which is taught by the refugees themselves) as well as courses in information technology and in Arabic and French languages are available at the center. (UNHCR-Morocco)
- Undocumented Afghan migrants and formerly registered refugees may register their stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran at one of the 146 centers set up in 17 provinces around the country. Once their stay in Iran has been regularized, they may present themselves at a “surety institute” (several of which are still in the process of being established) in order to receive assistance in applying for a job (UNHCR for Afghan Migrants)

## **RELEVANT UN DOCUMENTS AND TREATIES**

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016 A/RES/71/1

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017 A/RES/72/150

A meeting report - General Assembly A/72/PV.73

UNHCR Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

Leverage support for the front-line states—Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon—by focusing on helping these countries support refugee populations in becoming more self-reliant.

Volunteerism and community participation

Building a coalition for the resettlement of refugees, starting with an increase in its own intake.

**Additional Notes from the Chair:** The report gives a general overview of the current issue but you are expected to make further detailed research upon the issue regarding your country. For further inquiries please don't hesitate to contact me via: [denizagcaerr@gmail.com](mailto:denizagcaerr@gmail.com)

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