



BC MUN

British Columbia Model United Nations 2023

Directors Letter:

Greetings Delegates,

It gives me immense pleasure to be welcoming you all to BCMUN 2023 As the director of your committee, I am all looking forward to having a fruitful debate in the committee. Along with your Assistant Director Apollin Lu, we will be your dias team. This topic is a very spicy one, and I look forward to what points everyone will be bringing to the table. We will be discussing the Displacement of Afghanistan citizens.

If this is your first or first few times delegating, I'd like to welcome you to MUN with a gloved handshake! I remember how it was when I was first starting out—I was terrified and very shy, probably much more than you're feeling now. But trust me: every time you put yourself out there, it gets a little easier the next time. Try to start on research early (if you need any pointers, just hit me up) so you don't feel blurry during debates, and consider reaching out to your country's allies to form a bloc. Blocs are great for debate support and even emotional support. As for you seasoned MUNers, a reminder to do your best to be accommodating and encourage the quiet ones in your bloc to speak up: provide them with some suggestions on what they can speak about if you would be so kind, and always be a listening ear.

I look forward to meeting you all at the conference. If you have any questions about the conference or need help with preparation, I would be happy to respond to any questions through my email amiridsan@gmail.com

Good luck delegates!

Ridhima Sharma

Director of UNHCR - BCMUN 2023

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Displacement of Afghan Citizens

Committee Overview

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an international organization that provides protection and assistance to refugees. The UNHCR has a presence in over 120 countries and works to ensure that refugees and stateless people receive protection and assistance. In 2020, the UNHCR established a committee, South Korea. The UNHCR is responsible for providing protection and assistance to refugees and stateless persons in the Mun region. The Committee also advocates for the rights of refugees and stateless persons, provides humanitarian aid and works to promote refugee self-reliance. The Committee works with local partners to ensure that refugees and stateless persons are able to access health care, education, livelihoods and other essential services. The UNHCR also works with the local government to ensure that refugees and stateless persons are able to access legal protection.

Structure:

A subsidiary body of the General Assembly is the UNHCR. Although it has numerous branches in nations that offer asylum, including Turkey, Canada, the United States of America, and Great Britain, the headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

They operate as one of the most important humanitarian organisations in the world. - 8,000 employees spread across 449 sites in 123 different nations and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981 for their assistance to approximately 50 million refugees. The high commissioner office is made up of the deputy high commissioner, assistant high commissioner (protection), and assistant high commissioner (operation).

Six separate divisions exist; Division of External Relations (DER), Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) Division of Human Resources Management (DHRM) Division of Information Systems and Telecommunications (DIST) Division of Emergency, Security and Supply (DESS), Division of Programme Support and Management (DPSM). The committee consisting of 94 different states meets annually in Geneva. UNHCR is allowed to intervene with governments to ensure minimal rights such as; freedom from arbitrary expulsion, access to the courts, work and educational opportunities, possession of identity and travel documents.

Function:

The UNHCR's first responsibility was to assist those who had been impacted by World War II in finding a solution. Millions of people depended on this mission, thus it was granted a three-year mandate. The refugee issue persisted there even though the mission was extended until it was deemed permanent in 2003.

Since the 1960s, the UNHCR has dealt with a wide range of cases involving refugees fleeing conflict, political unrest, and natural disasters in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Program (WFP), and numerous other non-governmental organizations (NGO) that offer housing, food, material aid, and primarily "reparation and resettlement" collaborate with UNHCR on a variety of UN projects.

There are several goals of the UNHCR:

1. The favorable security environment: By safeguarding access to territorial protection and asylum procedures; protection against refoulement; and the adoption of nationality laws that prevent and/or reduce statelessness.
2. The fair protection process and documentation: Securing birth registration, profiling, and individual documentation based on registration.
3. Security from violence and exploitation: Reducing protection risks faced by people of concern, in particular, discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence, and specific risks faced by children.
4. Coverage of basic needs and services: Reducing mortality, morbidity, and malnutrition through multi sectoral interventions, meeting International Standards concerning shelter, domestic energy, water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The UNHCR is responsible to make sure that everyone can find safe refuge in other states, has the right to seek asylum and has options whether to return home, integrate, or resettle. In order to do so, their functions include providing emergency assistance and guaranteeing protection to each their final goal which is finding a solution for refugees to rebuild and live their lives.

Topic Introduction

The displacement of Afghan citizens is due to a variety of factors, including the ongoing conflict in the country, poverty, and natural disasters. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than two million Afghans were internally displaced within the country in 2020, and more than two million Afghan refugees were hosted in neighboring countries, primarily Pakistan and Iran. The UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations are providing assistance to Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) with food, shelter, education, and other essential services. Essay on Displacement of Afghanistan citizens

The displacement of Afghanistan citizens has been an ongoing issue for years, and it has had a large impact on the nation. Afghanistan is a country that has been subject to decades of war, political unrest, and economic hardship. This has resulted in an extremely high rate of displacement, with thousands of people fleeing their homes in search of safety and security.

The displacement of Afghanistan citizens can be attributed to a number of factors. The war in Afghanistan has caused widespread destruction and chaos, leading to an increase in displacement. The political instability in the country has also caused many to flee, as the government has been unable to provide the necessary security and stability for citizens to live peacefully. Additionally, a lack of economic opportunities has caused many to leave in search of a better life elsewhere.

The consequences of displacement have been severe. Many families have been forced to flee their homes with little more than the clothes on their back, leaving behind their possessions, homes, and livelihoods. This has caused widespread poverty and suffering, as many of those who have been displaced have found it difficult to find work and provide for their families. Additionally, many of those who have been displaced have become refugees, facing harsh conditions in unfamiliar countries.

The displacement of Afghanistan citizens has had a profound effect on the nation as a whole. It has resulted in a decrease in economic activity, as many of those who have been displaced have been unable to find work or contribute to the economy. Additionally, it has led to an increase in crime and violence, as those who have been displaced often turn to criminal activities in order to survive. Furthermore, it has had a significant impact on the nation's education system, as many of those who have been displaced have been unable to attend school due to their circumstances.

Ultimately, the displacement of Afghanistan citizens has had a disastrous effect on the nation. It has caused widespread poverty, suffering, and instability, and it has had a profound impact on the nation as a whole. In order to address this issue, it is important that the government takes steps to provide security, stability, and economic opportunities for those who have been displaced. Additionally, international aid organizations should continue to provide assistance to those who have been forced to flee their homes.

Topic History

In the early 1980s, when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, many of the citizens of the country were displaced. This displacement was the result of a complex set of factors, including the Soviet Union's military intervention, the civil war that ensued, and the Afghan refugee crisis.

The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan began in December 1979 when the Soviet Union dispatched more than 100,000 troops to the country and established a puppet government. This military intervention was intended to secure the Soviet Union's strategic interests in the region, and to prevent the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. The invasion resulted in a civil war, and in the ensuing chaos, millions of Afghans fled their homes to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

The civil war in Afghanistan led to both internal and external displacement of the Afghan population. The internal displacement of Afghans was caused by a number of factors, including the destruction of property and infrastructure, the disruption of social and economic activities, and the increasingly oppressive security measures imposed by the Soviet-backed government. The external displacement of Afghans was largely a result of the war-torn conditions in the country and the lack of security. As a result of the civil war, millions of Afghans fled to Pakistan and Iran, or sought asylum in Europe, the United States and other countries.

The Afghan refugee crisis was one of the most serious refugee crises of the 20th century. By the mid-1990s, more than 5 million Afghans had been forcibly displaced from their homes, making them one of the largest refugee populations in the world. The displacement of Afghans had a devastating impact on their lives, as they were denied basic rights such as access to education

and health care, and were often subjected to discrimination and exploitation. This displacement also had a significant impact on the development of Afghanistan, as the displacement of Afghans led to a significant loss of human capital and resources.

The displacement of Afghans has had a lasting impact on the country, and it continues to be a major challenge for the Afghan government. Despite the end of the Soviet occupation in 1989, millions of Afghans continue to be displaced both inside and outside of Afghanistan. The displacement of Afghans has had a significant impact on the country's social, economic and political development, and has contributed to the ongoing conflict and instability in the country. Afghanistan has a long history of displacement due to war and conflict. During the Soviet invasion in the 1980s, millions of Afghans fled the country. In the 1990s, when the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, many more Afghans were displaced due to violence and persecution. Since the U.S.-led invasion and the start of the war on terrorism in 2001, displacement has continued to be a major issue in the country. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were over 3 million registered Afghan refugees in 2015. In addition, millions more are believed to be internally displaced within Afghanistan.

Past Action

To assist the resettling of thousands of Afghans in North America or Europe, some countries that were a part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) established special programs. As stateless Asylum seekers, the non-refoulement principle and the U.N. Convention Against Torture protect them. They also receive maximum government benefits and protections in countries including Australia, Canada, Germany, the United States, and the United Kingdom. For

example, those that receive green cards under 8 U.S.C. § 1159 can immediately become “non-citizen nationals of the United States”. They can also be pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1452(b) without needing to meet the requirements of 8 U.S.C. § 1427(a). This allows them to travel with distinct United States Passports. Australia also provides similar benefits.

To facilitate the returns of failed asylum seekers, European countries have made many efforts to negotiate bilateral agreements with Afghanistan. Countries including Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom all concluded returns agreements prior to 2008. Due to continued insecurity in Afghanistan, deportations, when occurred, have been criticized. However, with growing public concerns in Europe about migration management in recent years, facilitating returns for rejected asylum seekers has been a European Union priority.

Since the early 2000s, UNHCR has consistently encouraged a regional approach encompassing local integration and a transition to a legal migration regime for those unwilling to return home but for whom a traditional refugee designation would not necessarily apply. However, in the face of implacable opposition from Iran and Pakistan to such long-term local integration, however, that prospect seems unlikely.

To respond to the urgent humanitarian and protection needs of more than 3.6 million people in the conflict-stricken country, the International Organization for Migration appealed for more than \$589 million. Between August and December 2020 the IOM scaled up its operational capacities to reach more than 600,000 people in Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The UN Agency also was the second largest provider of emergency shelter and non-food items in the country. They also worked to help displaced populations manage freezing winter temperatures. IOM also administered key reception and transit centers along the borders and provided healthcare, such as COVID-19 vaccinations, in 12 provinces.

Further, to help those with acute needs, the UNHCR and its partners have provided the recently displaced Afghans with emergency shelter, food, health, water, sanitation, and cash assistance.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan was created in March 2022 by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2626. Resolution 2626 calls for UNAMA and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within their mandate, to continue to lead and coordinate international civilian efforts. The UNAMA is a UN Special Political Mission tasked with assisting the people of Afghanistans.

Current Situation

It's been over a year since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan forced thousands of people to flee the country. Some were lucky enough to be airlifted out of the country, yet many more were left behind. The UN estimates that there are still around 3.5 million people who are internally displaced after decades of war. Families have been split up, having to leave their loved ones at risk. Furthermore, refugees state that they are not experiencing the speedy transfer of evacuees they were promised by the United States and European Nations. The Afghan economy has also left many people jobless, and the middle class seems to be evaporating. Street children and beggars, as well as drug users have increased tremendously.

Further, security for activists, journalists, the military, and LGBT community has been proven to be far from guaranteed. Under the new Taliban rule, many fear losing career and education opportunities, primarily amongst women and those who have higher education. Others fear reprisals for their ties with the previous government or their sexual orientation.

Afghan refugees make up the third largest refugee population in the world by nationality, behind Syrians and Venezuelans, as of June 2021. An additional 239,000 Afghan live as asylum seekers worldwide. Currently, More than 6 million Afghans have been driven out of their homes and their country by conflict, violence and poverty. The majority of displaced Afghans either live as internally displaced people (IDPs) or as refugees in Pakistan and Iran. According to UNHCR estimates, there were 3.4 million IDPs as of December 2021, and over 700,000 have been displaced since the start of 2021.

International efforts have been limited, as countries don't want an influx of refugees. For example, Pakistani Authorities publicly announced that they would not extend the validity of Proof of Registration cards issued to Afghan refugees beyond the end of that year, though they eventually relented for a while. As a result however, the internal displacement has been on the rise, with up to 1.5 million people forced from their homes to other locations within Afghanistan. Numerous studies have also shown that those who have been displaced tend to have higher than average rates of food insecurity, indebtedness, illiteracy, unemployment, and that large numbers do not have secure land tenure. European and American politicians have also been hesitant about the new migrants. Almost everywhere, governments have expressed general willingness to accept Afghans who worked alongside American forces or international aid groups but have

provided little detail about how that might happen. They are wary of committing to the many thousands more who would seek to leave to avoid life under the Taliban, even though for now the number of migrants over land routes has been relatively low.

Because international support has been suspended and long standing sanctions against the Taliban are affecting the whole country, the long standing economy seems to be on the brink of collapse. The UN agency has warned that as needs continue to grow, failure to sustain sufficient services and to address the vulnerabilities of the peoples will result in a surge of displacement and migration.

Despite difficult circumstances, the UNHCR is doing what they can to support the displaced Afghans by delivering life support. Since the start of 2021, nearly 1 million Afghans have been protected and supported. Due to the acute needs of those who have had to flee, there has been an increasing demand for food, water, shelter, and medical service. Responding to the most critical priorities, UNHCR has been able to successfully provide food, shelter, cash, hygiene, and sanitary kits, as well as other lifesaving assistance together with partners. The UNHCR has also undertaken protection monitoring covering 34 provinces in 2021. Furthermore, the UNHCR is working with authorities in neighboring countries to plan and prepare for potential future displacement of Afghan refugees.

Case Study #1 - Asylum Seekers in Norway

In desperation to escape Taliban ruled Afghanistan, Mohammad and his family traveled to Iran and then used a smuggler to get to Turkey. During this extremely dangerous journey, the family traveled on both foot and horse. At one point, Mohammad fell off the horse because his father

was so tired he couldn't hold him anymore. Once they got to Turkey, Mohammad's family traveled across the country to get to the Aegean Sea, where they were put on a boat made for five people, yet with twenty five people on board. After the two hour boat trip, they continued across Europe and eventually made it to Norway. The same day they arrived in Norway, Mohammad's family formally registered as asylum seekers. Mohammad began a happy life in Norway, going to school where he had many friends and played football. He was popular and enjoyed school. The family saw their future in Norway and always felt safe.

Unfortunately, after four years of living in Norway, Mohammad and his family's refugee application was rejected by the Norwegian government, and they were told they must leave the country. Not long after, the police arrived at the family's apartment and they were arrested, going into detention for 20 days. Soon after, they were flown back to Afghanistan where they were provided with a small amount of money to help with the return process. In Kabul, they set up new lives, as they had sold all their possessions when they fled the country. Amid escalating violence, many families like Mohammad's are desperately seeking safety and are unsure what their futures may hold.

Case Study #2 - Receiving Refugee Status in Germany

Hussain and his wife and two children, are from the Daykundi Province, East of Kabul. Hussain was a university professor in Kabul, and his wife was a nurse. They moved to Germany, where Hussain is looking for a job and his children are already enrolled in school. They all have received refugee status.

The family moved to Germany a few months after arriving in Italy. The decision to move to Germany was made to ensure a better future for their children and better work opportunities for the parents. Getting used to the new environment has been proven to not be so easy. The family faces challenges such as a language they don't understand and a culture that is foreign to them. Communicating with locals isn't easy. Hussain explains that when asking a question, the locals reply very cautiously. He says they seem very cold, but not impolite. He has had difficulty finding work as they require a certain level of German language fluency that he doesn't have yet.

Despite these challenges, Hussain doesn't regret his choice. The family lives in a community with other Afghans, which has helped with the isolation of being alone in a foreign nation. He says that being amongst other refugees has helped them learn about the asylum process, how to register in a hospital, and how to register their children in school. For the family, the German authorities have proved to be very helpful. In their experience, the migration offices were very informative and gave them necessary information. The family plans to stay in Germany, building a new life and have their children grow up there. Although they have faced many challenges, they do believe Germany is better than Afghanistan for them.

Bloc Positions

The debate over the displacement of Afghanistan citizens has resulted in a variety of divided stances within the UN. While some nations are focused on relocating the afghani citizens to their respective countries, other nations feel an indifference towards the situation. Throughout all UNHRC member states, it is evident that three distinct groups exist. The first group is focused on returning afghani citizens to a safe Afghanistan: nations that feel that the priority should be taking out the Taliban so that the citizens have a safe place to return to, a majority of countries in this group feel that the United States created this issue and therefore should be the one to resolve it. The second group is focused on finding the displaced citizens a new home close to Afghanistan, these countries typically can't support them in their own country, but are able to help finance helping the refugees find a new home. The last group is countries that support the Taliban and feel that the displaced citizens should be returned to Afghanistan. The spectrum of

diering ideologies has created an unparalleled divide amongst every nation, and created three separate blocs within UNHCR when discussing this specific issue.

Barbados, and Others

As mentioned previously, there are still nations worldwide that feel as though the issues in Afghanistan are at the fault of the United States. These countries were not previously involved with the war or Afghanistan. They feel that they are not at fault in this issue.

NATO allies and others

NATO allies went into Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attacks to ensure that the country would never again become a safe haven for terrorists. In February 2020, the United States and the Taliban signed an agreement on the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan by May 2021. Following the fall of the Afghan government and the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces in the summer of 2021, NATO concentrated on securing the departure in safety of people from allies and partners as well as Afghans who were affiliated with the organisation. As part of the coalition operation, more than 120,000 individuals, including about 2,000 Afghans working for NATO and their families, were evacuated in an Allied airlift from Kabul Airport in August 2021. A large number of them have already been relocated to allies and partners. While plans are being made for their subsequent migration to Allied and partner nations, NATO is collaborating with Allies to provide shelter, care, and support for people. Allied troops from the

NATO Response Force help relocate evacuees to temporary staging areas in Germany, Poland and Kosovo, and onwards to resettlement in several Allied countries.

Pakistan, Afghanistan and more

The Taliban and its allies do not wish for any Afghani citizens to leave the country, they have been quoted saying they do not want Afghans to leave the country. Although they have guaranteed that Afghan citizens with foreign travel authorization will be permitted to leave, imposing this restriction is an infringement on their right to freedom of movement. The Taliban have not taken any action at this moment to return Afghan citizens that fled the country.

Guiding Questions

1. What are the primary causes of displacement for Afghan citizens?
2. What are the impacts of displacement on the affected individuals and communities?
3. How is the UNHCR currently responding to the displacement crisis?
4. What additional measures can be taken to address the needs of displaced Afghan citizens?
5. How can the UNHCR work with local authorities and other organizations to address the root causes of displacement?

6. How can the UNHCR support the integration and long-term stability of displaced Afghan citizens?
7. How can the UNHCR collaborate with other organizations and governments to promote durable solutions for displaced Afghan citizens, including voluntary return and local integration?

Further Research

1. <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/tei-jp-tracker/tei/afghan-displacement-situation>
Especially useful for European countries, this website goes in-depth while discussing what is being done in Europe to help displaced Afghans.
2. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/afghanistan-refugee-crisis-explained/>
Describes USA for UNHCR helps and protects refugees and people displaced by violence, conflict and persecution. Supporting UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency – and its partners, your gift provides lifesaving essentials including shelter, water, food, safety and protection.
3. <https://www.unhcr.org/afghanistan-emergency.html>
Depicts the The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a United Nations agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
4. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/10/19/afghanistan-refugees-resettlement-taliban-migration/>

Describes the reasons behind the mass displacement of Afghan citizens. Reports the conditions of different refugee settlement organizations across the world, based on the people's experiences.

5. <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/afghanistan/internal-displacement>

Useful statistics regarding displaced afghans that show the severity of the issue at hand.

Focuses specifically on internally displaced Afghans which is a very important subtopic.

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