

Specialized Committee

Establishing frameworks for relocating
Syrian refugees

Forum:	The Specialise committee
Issue:	Establishing frameworks for relocating Syrian refugees
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Introduction

The war in Syria has caused a refugee crisis. Now with the fall of the Assad regime the possibility for a return becomes larger, but for this a framework needs to be established or else many Syrians will not be able to go back home. Conflict is still on the rise in Syria and the situation is complex, inside and outside the country. For their safety millions of Syrians have fled their homes. Return is harshly possible. This is because most of the displaced Syrians do not possess the means or the ability to return by themselves due to poverty. The refugees have scattered themselves across the globe. A collaborative action needs to be taken to help these people home or a new home.

Since there are so many refugees, who go to many countries in abundance. The numbers of refugees have become overwhelming, and a new place needs to be found for them outside of Syria.

This report will go into the history of the war, the affects it has had on Syrian citizens and their eventual displacement. This is essential in understanding the situation and the best ways to go about solving it. After then mentioning important details on countries harbouring refugees and important organisations proving aid, previous attempts at solving the issue are named.

Most important is the protection of the human rights and basic needs of the refugees, which until now have been beneath bare minimum. Poverty and neglect have been common benefactors. The safety and well-being of the refugees should be priority. Keeping this in mind a framework can be established.

Key Terms

Arab Spring

Arab Spring is a movement from the year 2010, where a series of protests and rebellions rose up against various governments in the Middle East. An uprising in Tunisia began to spread throughout other Arab countries. **Arab Spring** ended in 2012.

Cease-fire

A temporary pause to warfare through agreement of the parties involved. This can be done by a formal or informal agreements. A **cease-fire** is a way to stop violence of war for a set term of time, but can also last, ending the war.

Chemical attacks

Chemical attacks are the weaponisation of chemicals. Toxic chemicals are used to harm victims by making them ill, such as giving them nausea, trouble breathing, eye irritation and paralysis. The list goes on.

Displaced

Displaced means having been forced to leave your residence by dire circumstances such as war or natural disaster. The word was founded by SHAEFF to signify a person unable to return to their homeland without help.

Humanitarian Aid

The assistance of people in need. The aid is meant to provide essential humanitarian needs to those who cannot provide it themselves often by result of war of natural disaster. The end goal is to help rebuild their lives.

Regime

A system of government, which determines the extend and form of political power. In the case of the Assad regime power is expressed through military forces. The main goal is to keep power in the Assad family.

General Overview

To understand the refugee issue, it is important to understand the war in Syria. During Arab spring in March 2011 a demonstration took place in Syria. The leader of Syria, Bashar al-Assad fought against these peaceful protestors with force. In July the demonstrators start fighting back. With troops leaving the military to join in, they start up the Free Syrian Army and a civil war. Another group is the Syrian Salvation Army, a group formed by Sunni Islam and led by the HTS. The rebels were the divided into a few of similar groups. The jihadists from other countries start to help the rebels. The country splits up into multiple groups, such as the Kurds up north. Consisting mainly of the YPG. Iran supplies al-Assad with soldiers and cargo. Eventually in 2012 the Persian Gulf sends the rebels money and weapons to weaken Iran, later Jordan does this too. Hezbollah in turn begins to help al-Assad.

Assad eventually begins using chemicals on civilians, killing children and adults alike. Russia and the United States of America (USA) interfere in the conflict. They support opposing sides. U.S.A. is against al-Assad, whilst Russia supports him. The CIA come over to help out the Syrian rebels. A new group splits itself from Al-Qaida, who is also stationed in Syria, over an internal conflict. This is group is the Islamic State of Iran and Syria. (ISIS). They start up a mini state, Caliphate, by fighting against the Kurds. In September 2014 USA bombs the ISIS. In July they even build a pentagon to train Syrian rebels, who specifically fight ISIS. Turkey then bombs Kurdish groups. In September of 2015 Russia sends out military to attack ISIS, but they only attack the Syrian rebels.

When Donald Trump is elected president, USA opts out of the war. At the end of 2016 al-Assad supported by Iran and Russia takes back the capital city, Aleppo. Spring 2017 marks another horrific event, when al-Assad once again uses chemical weapons against his own people. Trump responds to this by launching Tomahawk missiles on Syrian airbases. The war continues on with more chemical attacks, multiple time sides go back and forth and the eventually the withdrawal of USA.

In March 2020 the Idlib cease fire is established.

The conflict was unpredictable and rapidly changing. In the north many groups still keep fighting against one another. For civilians the whole situation remains an uncertain dangerous environment. Curfews have been placed in many different regions, but the escalating violence causes civilians to move towards a safer haven. They are displaced in surrounding countries, such as Türkiye, Lebanon and Jordan. Various groups of refugees have been displaced internally. The estimate is around 14 million refugee's total. 70% of the population is still in need of humanitarian aid. The cease fire stopped after the fall of the Assad-regime in December 2024, which caused 1 million people to return home. A survey conducted by the UNHCR showed that 80% of the displaced population hope to return. The committee supports the protection and right to return of these refugees.

The issue is that the refugees are spread over 130 countries in unfortunate circumstances. Poverty and limited access to basic needs gives them little change of returning home. Countries hosting these refugees do little to help, which leads to debt and reliance on humanitarian assistance. The number of refugees is simply too high, so relocating seems to be the only solutions. Within Syria itself almost 90% of the population already live in poverty. Basic human rights are neglected, even that of children. The result of child labour in most cases.

The only way to sustain the relocating of refugees and eventually help them return home is to invest in aid and facilitating their return.

Major Parties Involved

UNHCR

The United Nations Refugee Agency has provided aid and protection to refugees and displaced persons. They have been setting up funds in order to conduct research and facilitate the means to relocate Syrian refugees. The agency has urged for more the support to help.

Syria

Syria is the country from which these refugees stem. The rise against the Assad regime caused chaos. The Assad regime attacked its own citizens, making their own country even more unsafe during the war. Most of the population fled, causing a global crisis. With the fall of the Assad regime many civilians can finally return home.

Turkey

Turkey holds the most Syrian refugees out of any country, roughly 3.2 million are registered. The EU has assisted Turkey by granting 10 billion euros to Turkey to host these refugees, back in 2011. Turkey has made a lot of efforts to make sure the Syrian refugees are well provided for. In 2025 with the EU, Turkey is working on furthering the Facility, which provides for the refugees.

United States of America

The United States of America have under the rule of President Trump meddled with the Syrian war, adding more fuel to the fire. As a part of the UNHCR it is their duty to help resolve the need for a framework that relocates refugees.

Russian Federation

Russia has funded many operations in Syria, escalating the war further and eventually causing more danger for citizens and adding onto the refugee crisis.

Timeline of Key Events

[March 2011]	[The start of the civil war in Syria]
[2012]	[The Persian gulf supplies the rebels with weapons]
[March 2013]	[The crisis reaches 1 million refugees]
[September 2014]	[USA bombs ISIS]
[September 2015]	[Russian military attacks Syrian rebels]
[2016]	[Assad retakes the capital city]
[2017]	[Assad uses chemical warfare on civilians for the second time]
[March 2020]	[The cease-fire]
[December 2024]	[The fall of the Assad regime]

UN Involvement and Other Treaties

- Resolution 2165 (Syria) S/RES/2165, renewed as 2672, this treaty allows UN to provide cross border humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees, through multiple countries and reaffirms the primary responsibility of the Syrian authority to protect its citizens. Some Council members, including China, Russia, and the UAE, welcomed the Syrian government's decision, and now view the delivery of aid into north-west Syria as a bilateral matter between the UN and the Syrian government. They have encouraged the international community to support such cooperation.
- UNSC Resolution 2585, this one allows Bab al-Hawa Border Crossing to be used as a means to provide humanitarian aid to the north-west of Syria, the result is that more countries send out aid and concerns about sloppy guidelines were raised

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Many nations have done internal work to provide and give Syrian refugees a chance, for example Turkey. They have paired up with the world bank group to to identify and mitigate the impacts of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) on Turkish host communities. This means the Syrians are treated as “guests” that will be send home after peace returns in Syria. The world bank group has also done work in Lebanon and Jordan.

Many organisations do much to help refugees swell, such as Médecins du monde and the world food programme (WFP). They have supported 3.6 million Syrians in 2024 alone. Due to funding cuts they have had to lessen their support of the Syrian refugees, but still their work has been integral in solving the problem. They provide hot meals, and provide the right nutrition to children and pregnant women.

Possible Solutions

The problem with relocating is the overall welfare of displaced Syrians. Many live in poverty and don't have the means to return home. Most host countries do little to help this issue. Therefore it will be necessary to focus on humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian aid comes in many forms. The first is funding. Like stated before many Syrians live below the poverty line. This does not give them any room for moving, since they can barely afford basic needs. To help raise funds can help fulfil these basic needs or fund their journey home. Funding can also help set up facilities, which create a safe haven for returning refugees. However funding does have a negative side, it depends on the generosity of others and that sometimes will require some convincing. Funding can also be misused for people's own exploits, therefore it is necessary to implement strict guidelines and rules on the spending of the funding. To set up funds the UN can cooperate with and support NGO's in order to provide and help them, where ever possible with their funding. The nations can also work together to create their own funds with their own guidelines.

Other than funding, humanitarian aid could be providing volunteers, who help guide Syrians on their return home. Another way volunteers can help is to work in refugee camps. This way Syrians have more support and a better start off point to go homewards. The issue with this that again it relies heavily on the willingness of other people, but besides that this could still be of huge help. Refugees are often standing on their last leg. People providing safety in camps, helping out with cooking or cleaning up can already be of immense help. Volunteers can ask help integrate and introduce Syrians to their new environment. Another way they could help is to educate children or simply play with them, the consequences will have a positive impact.

A framework can not be established for the relocating of refugees without a guaranty of a safe return. Even after the fall of the Assad regime, the country is still in a state of chaos. The refugees need to have a safe place to call home. Countries hosting these refugees need to be able to provide them with a safe and healthy environment. This requires a form of support from these countries. This is often not possible due to the sheer number of refugees. So either by ensuring their basic necessities in the hosting country, or relocating them to a different country, where they do have the access to basic necessities. Unfortunately this will take time and will again force the refugees to relocate themselves yet again. However the access to basic necessities is a priority.

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Appendix

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