Europe's Refugee Crisis

This story describes the refugee crisis affecting Europe and recommends how to respond

Define the Problem?

How should Europe Deal with the Migration Crisis?

Is the crisis over or evolving?

Where do migrants come from?

How do migrants get to Europe?

Where do migrants go in Europe?

Are there humanitarian costs?

Europe witnessed an explosion of migration starting in 2015

Since 2012, Syrians represent the largest share of migrants coming to Europe

Why are Syrians Coming to Europe?

The ongoing civil conflict in Syria has generated one the world's worst migrant crisis on record. UNHCR estimates more than 5 million Syrian refugees have been displaced to other countries and nearly 6.3 million Syrians have been internally displaced.

After 7 years the Syrian conflict rages on with no end in sight

Are All Syrian Refugees Coming to Europe?

Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan host the largest number of Syrian refugees

Source: UNHCR

Country. Color shows details about Country. Size shows Number of Records and Refugees. The marks are labeled by Country.

Yet, Almost 1 million Syrian Refugees have Traveled to Europe Seeking Stability, Peace, and Asylum

Syrian Refugee Countries vs. Syrian Asylum Countries in 2015

Source: UNHCR

Which European Countries are Most Affected?

Germany, Sweden, Austria, and Hungary have more Syrians Seeking Asylum than anywhere in the Europe

Syrian's Claiming Asylum are not equally distributed across European Countries

How Do Syrian Migrants get to Europe?

In 2015, Migrants poured into Europe via the East. Med and Western Balkan Routes

The Eastern Med. Sea Route goes through Turkey and Greece.

Syrian Migration to Europe from 2012-2018

Syrian's largely use the Eastern Med. Sea Route

Mediterranean Sea is the Most Dangerous Place for Migrants

Nearly 15,000 migrants have gone missing or perished in the Mediterranean Seas since 2014

Dates:
2014-2018

Migrants Reported Missing and Dead 2014-2018

Observations

- Europe may still be open to another migration crisis. The conflict in Syria is still ongoing and the Middle East could see another civil crisis causing migrants to come to Europe
- Most Syrian refugees remain in the Middle Eastern Countries surrounding Syria
- Refugees making it to Europe and claiming Asylum are NOT being distributed equally throughout Europe
- Most Refugees travel to Europe via the Mediterranean and Western Balkans
- There's essentially a humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea where migrants drown coming to Europe

Additional Observation

In 2016 the EU and Turkey Struck a Deal to Stop the Flow of Illegal Migrants coming to Europe

- **Returns:** All "irregular migrants" crossing from Turkey into Greece from 20 March will be sent back. Each arrival will be individually assessed by the Greek authorities.
- **One-for-one:** For each Syrian returned to Turkey, a Syrian migrant will be resettled in the EU. Priority will be given to those who have not tried to illegally enter the EU and the number is capped at 72,000.
- **Visa restrictions:** Turkish nationals should have access to the Schengen passport-free zone by June. This will not apply to non-Schengen countries like Britain.
- **Financial aid:** The EU is to speed up the allocation of €3bn ($3.3 bn; £2.3 bn) in aid to Turkey to help migrants.

For now the Deal Seems to be Working

Q: What Happened After the EU-Turkey Agreement?

A: It closed the Eastern Med. and Balkan Route to Europe?

The Central Med. Route Appears Open

Q: Who's Coming to Europe After the EU-Turkey Agreement and how are they getting to Europe?

A: Central Med. Route. Africans and Syrians

Observations Revised

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- Most Refugees travel to Europe via the Mediterranean and Western Balkans
- There's essentially a humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea where migrants drown coming to Europe
- Migrants continue to come to Europe via the Central Med. Route

Given the Situation What’s Recommended?

Recommendations

1) **Screen Asylum Applicants Before They Migrate to Europe**
   - Review asylum claims while refugees are still close to home in the Middle East/Africa or in the "hotspots"

2) **Enhance Humanitarian Aid to Refugee Locations Surrounding Syria to curb incentives migrants have to travel to Europe**

3) **The third element is to insist that asylum-seekers stay put until their applications are processed, rather than jumping on a train to Germany.**

4) **Europe should act together to equally distribute Asylum seekers throughout EU Countries**

Refugee Camps

Focus Humanitarian Aid and Asylum Screening to Locations with Refugees

Challenges

Only a limited number of official refugee camps are officially sanctioned by countries hosting Syrian refugees. In turn, it is not always clear where refugee settlements are located.

Lebanon has no official refugee camps and hosts nearly 1.5 million refugees. This creates challenges when focusing resources to “hotspots”

The multidimensional Syrian conflict quickly displaces people across borders

Locate Refugees Using Satellite Images and Machine Learning

Google Earth

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Key Features

- Tent Dominated Areas
- Clear Borders
- White Areas
- Outside of Cities or Developed Areas

Classification Solution

Refugee Camp

Refugee Camp

Non Camp

Image Processing and Classification

Original Image

Create Image Chips

Camp

Noncamp

Modeling Results

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END