

Forum: UNESCO
Issue: Tackling the issue of low literacy rates of refugees
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Overview

Education is the most important tool of empowerment but data show that the education for refugees consistently demonstrate poorly. The issue of refugees' low literacy has existed for decades. Statistics of Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees show there are over 175 million refugees are being displaced in 2017. Many of them are under 17 year-old teenagers and uneducated which means they're not only lost their chance to enjoy their childhood but also lost their future. Also according to UNHCR(the UN Refugee Agency), there are 4 million refugee children who are out of school. This is an increase of half a million in just one year. The education rate of school-age refugee is under 50% to 61% and they cover the one-quarter of people that displaced around the world. Also there are over one-third of young generation can pursue high education but under the encouragement of scholarship or other welfare the rate of refugee pursuing high education only appears as 1%. As the growing of refugees number of the education gap has also widened. In those conflict region the education rate of refugees could even lower than other places. By the end of 2015 according to the Syrian government, Syria has more than 700,000 Syrian school-age refugee children are out of accredited education. The education of refugees is important. Education not only provides basic life skills it also can improve the adaptability and self-reliance, become self-sufficient, learn new skills and pursue economic opportunities. It can contribute to the reconstruction of some refugee countries, and help them to rebuild their lives and once again become productive members of a community. Also while tackling the issue nations should also consider about the matters of politic or religion amount refugees.

Key terms

School-Children

Children that under 17 in the period of he or her life is legally required to attend school. School-Children is the main victim in the “education disaster” of refugee.

Refugee

The popular meaning of this word is One who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. And in Oxford dictionary this word means A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. This is the targeted thron in this topic.

Repatriation

Repatriation is the process of returning an asset, an item of symbolic value or a person – voluntarily or forcibly – to its owner or their place of origin or citizenship. The term may refer to non-human entities, such as converting a foreign currency into the currency of one's own country, as well as to the process of returning military personnel to their place of origin following a war. In this committee, delegate might face the challenge of repatriating refugee back to their countries. Delegate should determine the best move due to the reality or their own opinion.

Refugee camp

Temporary or long term settlement that exist to receive refugees and displaced persons who have fled their home country. The education in refugee camp should also be considered.

Education

According to the Oxford dictionary the word means the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university. In this UNESCO it identified as the priority matter that refugee needs this time.

Innovation

This word identified by the Oxford dictionary as the introduction of new things, ideas or ways of doing something an age of technological innovation The company is very interested in product design and innovation. And innovation among refugee could use as the substance that regain happiness and achieving goals.

Livelihood

A means of securing the necessities of life. People whose livelihoods depend on the rainforest. Delegates need to consider building suitable livelihoods for the refugee during solving the education issues. The opportunities to become self-sufficient, learn new skills and pursue economic opportunities are vital for refugees to rebuild their lives and once again become productive members of a community.

Important events/Timeline

Date	Event
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- 2002** UNHCR has just published a new book titled, “Learning for a future: refugee education in developing countries” edited by Jeff Crisp, Christopher Talbot and Daiana B. Cipollone. The book examines a wide range of issues relating to refugee education, including education in acute emergencies, the quality of learning and attainment in refugee schools, education for peace, and vocational training programs for refugees.
- 2015** An agreement between the United Nations refugee agency and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) announced today will allow forcibly displaced persons in various African countries to pursue higher education through online and on-site courses.
- 2015** The United Nation formed the Sustainable Development Goals and one of it was aim to eradicate poverty and build prosperity by 2030.
- 2017** The European Union and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have launched a large-scale cash transfer project to increase the number of refugee children attending school in Turkey.
- 2017** Several initiatives to improve learning through mobile technologies for educating refugees were presented during the Mobile Learning Week.
- 2018** The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched on Monday a global fundraising campaign to sustain resources for its education, health and other assistance programs.

Major Nations/Organizations

- **United Nation(UNHCR): In 2016, UNHCR helped 984,000 refugee children enroll in primary school through its partnership with the Educate a Child program, including more than 250,000 children who were previously not in school. Another 42,000 refugees participated in accelerated learning programs. UNHCR also helps refugees go to college. More than 4,000 refugee students received an Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative scholarship (DAFI) to study at universities in 38 countries. An additional 1,500 refugee students enrolled in**

“connected learning” programs that combine face-to-face learning with online classes.

- **Sonbola: Sonbola is a group for Education and Development which is a start-up grassroots apolitical NGO that started piloting its educational programs during Spring-Summer 2014 in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. It was officially launched during Fall 2014 and acquired its official registration in October 2015 in Lebanon. In response to many discrepancies and critical gaps in addressing Syria’s education crisis, Sonbola was founded in order to fill those gaps and address the education of Syrian refugee children and youth with a special focus on quality and sustainability. Sonbola’s mission stems from the belief that every single child has the right to an inclusive and high-quality education irrespective of his socio-economic, religious or ethnic background.**
- **United Nation (UNICEF): UNICEF is committed to doing all it can to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in partnership with governments, civil society, business, academia and the United Nations family – and especially children and young people.**

Statistics

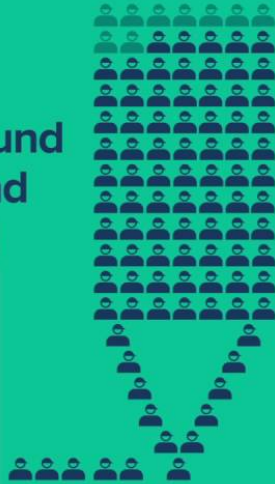
(1) Rate of Children’s education(Primary school)

Primary enrolment rates / **Children**

91%

of children around
the world attend
primary school

SOURCE: UNESCO (2014)



Primary enrolment rates / **Refugee Children**

Only
50%

of refugee children
go to primary
school

SOURCE: UNHCR (2015)

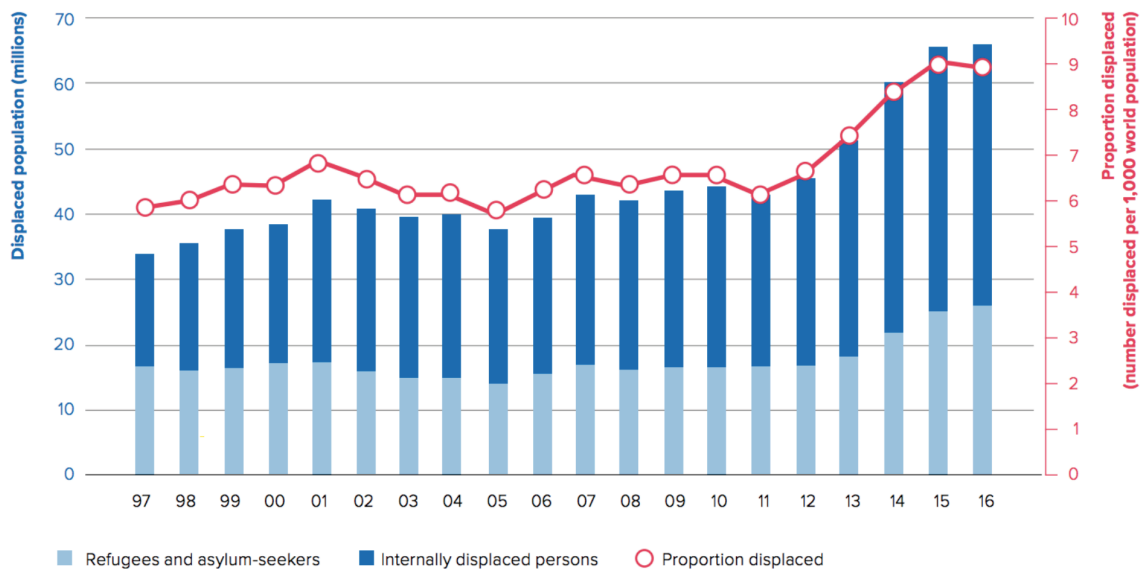


(2) Displace trends

Microsoft Office Home

Forced Displacement Trends (1997-2016)

Figure 1 | Trend of global displacement & proportion displaced | 1997-2016



Important Documents/Past UN Solutions

Dryden_Refugee_Education_Global-Rvw(http://www.unhcr.org/hu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2016/12/Dryden_Refugee_Education_Global-Rvw.pdf)

Refugees and Displaced Children Adopted by the ETUCE Conference, the Regional Conference of Education International, meeting in Belgrade, on 6-8 December 2016(https://www.csee-etuce.org/images/attachments/RS_REFUGEESandDisplaced_EN-ADOPTED.pdf)

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE EDUCATION CONFERENCE PROVIDING EDUCATION TO REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM CONFLICT AREAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST FAST TRACK TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INTEGRATION(https://www.ki.is/images/Skrar/KI/Skolamal/Skyrslur_og_onnur_rit/FINAL_2016_Refugee_Conference_Reader_EN.pdf)

Possible Solutions

1. Humanitarian relief activity:
2. Financial assisting countries that lack of ability to improve or provides
3. Financial support on the building of refugee camp
4. Establish more education programs

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<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/9/57d7d6f34/unhcr-reports-crisis-refugee-education.html>

Press Release: New Competition Aims to Find Creative Solutions to Education Challenges in Conflict Zones.” UNHCR, www.unhcr.org/news/press/2015/3/551c0c6c5f0/joint-press-release-new-competition-aims-find-creative-solutions-education.html?query=New

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