



Week 7

From Policy to Practice / Case Study: Refugees & Forced Migrants (1)

*Week 7 further proceeds with a case study about **refugees (1) & forced migrants (2)**, emphasising the **‘from policy to practice’ perspective (3)**. A ‘refugee’ can be defined as a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. A ‘forced migrant’ is a person subject to migration in which one element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether they arise from man-made or natural causes (EU, Migration & Home Affairs). Over the past decades, ever-increasing flows of forcibly displaced people and communities have posed one of the biggest global challenges to the international community and meant reinforced humanitarian assistance and development aid. What are the current trends of displacement & how is it transforming humanitarianism & development?*

1. REFUGEES IN HUMANITARIANISM & DEVELOPMENT



- The past decades have witness rich theorisations about humanitarian and developmental responses to large-scale, protracted refugee crises.
- There has been a need for understanding the extraordinary speed with which global donors and concerned actors have mobilised.
- What can be said about both the emergence and characteristics of humanitarian & developmental responses to contemporary refugee crises?
- Let us recall first the implementation in 2018 of

a ‘Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework’.

- For the most part, structural determinants and interests have driven engagement on the refugee question globally.
- Development theory from the 1970-90s – the core-periphery/metropole-dependency model of economic dualism – has framed most of the responses to refugee crises.
- These responses have therefore subordinated ‘Global South’ countries to economic-development and containment conditions applied by the ‘Global North’.
- As a result, mixed achievements have been recorded with regard to the state of world refugees.
- During the past years, millions of displaced people have been able or not to go back to their homes and to resume a more peaceful and productive life.
- States have continued or not to offer refuge to those obliged to flee their own country.
- There is thus a widespread idea that the world is suffering from ‘compassion fatigue’.
- At the same time, one cannot deny that the world is also characterised by some deeply

worrying dynamics and trends.

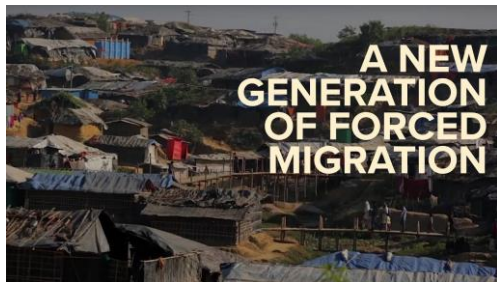
- Firstly, the principal reason why there has been empathy towards refugees is precisely because these large numbers of populations have been victimised.
- They are refugees whether by war, conflicts, or generalised political persecution.
- What developments can possibly be expected regarding refugee issues?
- Numerous states around the world remain politically, socially, as well as economically frail, prone to internal armed conflict
- They may well in future decades be unable or unwilling to protect their populations.
- The fragmentation of these states indeed predicts that governments, rebel groups and warlords will resort to even greater violence.
- The forms and tactics of terror are documented: arbitrary arrests & disappearances, non-judicial executions, brutalisation & mistreatment of most vulnerable individuals and communities.
- Along a very well-known pattern, these abuses will likely cause new population displacements.
- These will include mass expulsions, compulsory relocations, refugee and asylum flows.



► ***For more information, please consult the ProQuest eBook and additional readings.***

2. FORCED MIGRANTS IN HUMANITARIANISM & DEVELOPMENT

- Forced displacement is a developmental challenge, not only a humanitarian concern.
- More than 75% of refugees have been displaced for more than five years, and the vast majority of refugees and internally displaced people live in developing countries.
- A surge in violent conflict has led to historically high levels of forced migrants.
- Recently, the war in Ukraine for example has caused the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since the end of World War II.
- Globally, there are today more than 85 million forced migrants, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers
- Most of them have fled their homes to escape violence and persecution (UNHCR Mid-Year Trends Report, 2021).
- The hardships they endure through displacement make them extremely vulnerable.



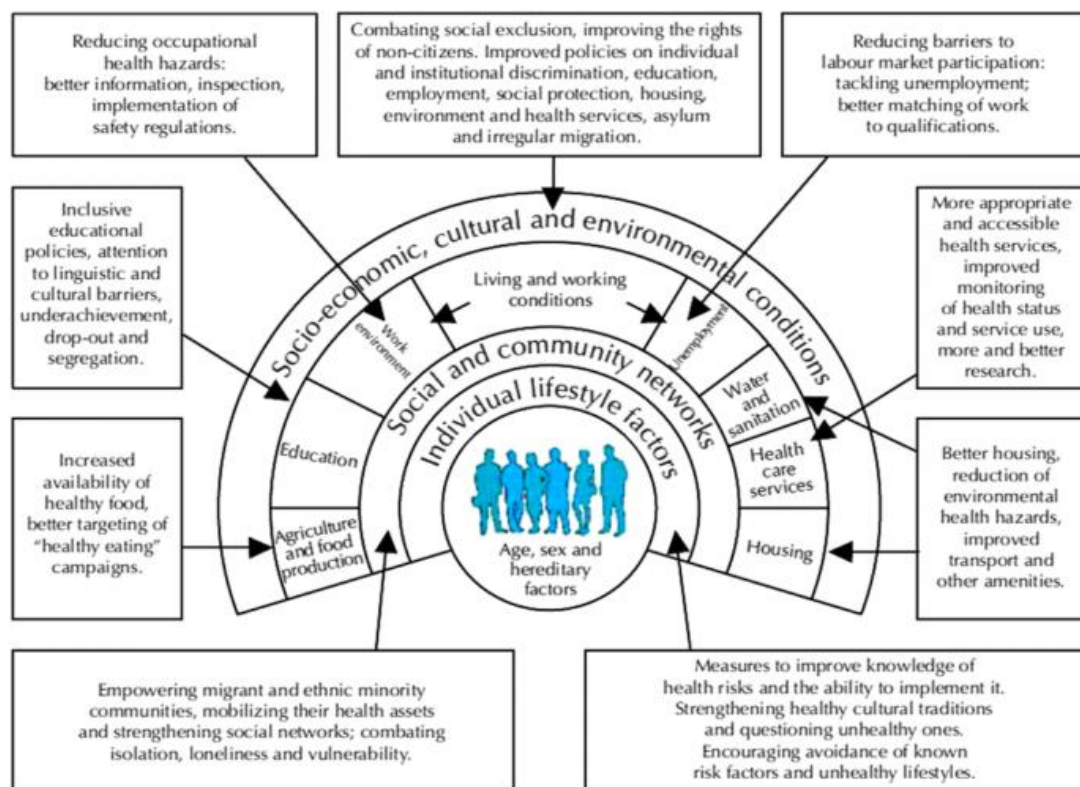
- Forced migrants lose assets and livelihoods and are unable to anticipate their future.
- Many suffer from trauma, with women and girls are at high risk of gendered violence and in need of help to regain their agency and begin rebuilding their lives.
- Forced migrants often live in poor areas that are struggling to meet their own development goals.
- Accommodating their sudden arrival presents a challenge for many host countries.
- Indeed, forced migration puts additional pressure on their capacity to deliver services and infrastructure.
- This is why forced migrants do not only represent a humanitarian crisis but are also a developmental challenge.
- Besides, displacement settings are becoming increasingly protracted, and more than 15 million people have been in exile for over five years.

- Forced migration is today at its highest since the end of the Cold War, underscoring the need for a more sustainable and efficient way to support forced migrants and their hosts through a long-term approach.
- In this perspective, an ever-increasing number of host countries from the developing world take the lead to better manage crises.
- This includes development programmes, as well as health and education initiatives.
- Finally, the international community is working to better align its efforts on the UNHCR's 'Global Compact on Refugees'.



► **For more information, please consult the ProQuest eBook and additional readings.**

3. REFUGEES & FORCED MIGRANTS: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE



BIBLIOGRAPHY

The below-reading materials can be found on ProQuest through your VLE platform (Online Library).

ProQuest eBook

- Kevin M. Cahill, *History and Hope: The International Humanitarian Reader* (Fordham University Press, 2013), pp. 208-221.

Additional readings

- Barbara Harrell-Bond, Can Humanitarian Work with Refugees Be Humane? (Human Rights Quarterly, 2002).
- Roger Zetter, Protection in Crisis: Forced Migration and Protection in a Global Era (Transatlantic Council on Migration / Migration Policy Institute, 2015).