

Forum: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Issue: Cooperating with NGOs to improve the infrastructure of refugee camps

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INTRODUCTION

The number of forcibly displaced people worldwide since the start of World War II is at its highest at the end of 2022, as there are 108.4 million asylum seekers. Due to this vast augmentation in the past years, countries with a high number of refugees have created refugee camps to provide them with a temporary housing solution. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has shown that most refugees stay in the camps for 10–15 years and later move on and get jobs on their own. However, the number of years differs for each person and when refugees overstay in these camps problems are created. The majority of displaced people are hosted in low-income countries where the infrastructure of such camps is poor, which holds many hazards for the residents.

The source of most problems in refugee camps is overcrowding since it causes a shortage of supplies, absence of privacy, security perils and most crucial, the spread of disease and violence. Refugees in these camps often suffer from severe malnutrition, dehydration and in some cases starvation, which can result in death. The dangers of the camps have an equally big toll on refugee's mental health and in most cases women's, as they are affected the most by violence of any kind. There have been many attempts in the past, mostly conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to protect refugees, improve the infrastructure of these and eventually provide them with better living conditions and opportunities to create a new life.

These attempts were insufficient, which is the reason why there is an immense need to cooperate with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and improve infrastructure in refugee camps. These organizations can help protect refugees' rights which are being violated in the camps, provide them with decent living conditions and finally aid them leave these camps and create a new life far from the dangers in their home countries and feel safe once again.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Asylum Seekers

“An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn’t yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Seeking asylum is a human right. This means everyone should be allowed to enter another country to seek asylum.”¹

Refugees

Persons who have left their countries, due to human rights violations, conflicts, terrorism, persecution, and cannot return since their lives are in danger and therefore seek asylum in other countries.

IDPs (Internally Displaced people)

People who have been obliged to leave their homes for the same reasons as refugees but have not gone over international borders.

Migrants

People who have willingly left their homes and seek asylum in other countries or cities, due to several reasons.

Stateless people

"People not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law. Simply put, this means that a stateless person is someone who does not have the nationality of any country. "²

Refugee Camps

Temporary accommodations are built to receive displaced people, providing them instant aid and protection, some camps accept not only refugees but also IDPs and migrants. They contain

¹ Amnesty International. "Who is a Refugee, a Migrant or an Asylum Seeker?" Amnesty International, 31 Oct. 2022, www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/ . Accessed 29 June 2023.

² UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). "The UN conventions on Statelessness." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/ending-statelessness/un-conventions-statelessness . Accessed 30 June 2023.

the displaced people until they are able to return home or find another permanent housing solution. The types of refugee camps vary from very strict camps, where residents are prohibited to leave the camp, to camps where residents are free to work (Uganda).

Rohingya

“The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority group who lived until 2017 in Myanmar. However, today they are the biggest group of stateless people in the world because they have not been recognized as an official ethnic group. In August 2017 the Rohingya were forced to flee their villages and seek asylum in Bangladesh, after a massive wave of violence and persecution in Myanmar’s Rakhine State.”³

Direct Violence

“All types of physical and psychological abuse are included. e.g. physical or behavioural violence such as war, bullying, domestic violence, exclusion or torture.”⁴

Structural Violence

Rules of the camp that discriminate against women. There are many policies that refer to security, medical care, food distribution and shelter.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The History of Refugee Camps

The history of refugee camps is deeply intertwined with the global phenomenon of forced displacement and the need to provide temporary shelter and support to those fleeing from conflicts, persecution, or natural disasters. While the concept of refugee camps emerged in the 20th century, the idea of providing refuge to displaced people has existed for centuries.

³ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) "Rohingya Refugee Crisis Explained." *How to Help Refugees — Aid, Relief and Donations | USA for UNHCR*, 13 July 2022, www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/#Rohingya . Accessed 30 June 2023.

⁴ Council of Europe. "Peace and Violence." *Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People*, www.coe.int/en/web/compass/peace-and-violence . Accessed 1 July 2023.

At the beginning of the 20th century

The British concentration camps of the Boer War, which were formed to house residents of the Boer republics of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State (1900-1902) were among the first places where the term “refugee Camps” was referred to. The camps built for Armenians fleeing genocide (1915-1918) are more in line with how the model of such camps is currently understood. However, the official use of refugee camps, as a response to forced displacement, began during World War II.

During World War II

In order to house those escaping the Nazis or any other kind of capture, refugee camps were established throughout Europe. Later, however, they also housed people who had been released from concentration camps or who were fleeing from the Soviet Army. These camps were initially created as temporary settlements but existed for many years due to the extensive displacement caused by the worldwide conflict. One of the oldest refugee camps is Cooper’s Camp in West Bengal, India. It traces back to 1947 when many Hindus residing in East Bengal, which was predominantly Muslim at the time and is now Bangladesh, fled over the border. Around 7,000 people still reside in Cooper's Camp today, nearly 70 years later.

Modern Era

The first actual refugee camp was established in 1991 in Kenya when Somali refugees fled from the Civil War and crossed the border into Kenya. That’s when one of the biggest refugee camps of the modern era was created, the Dadaab Refugee Complex, which now houses 218.873 refugees. Currently, there are many concerns about the viability and efficacy of the camps due to the difficulties in addressing the long-term requirements of refugees, which vary.

Problems in Refugee Camps

In the last couple of years, refugee camps have been the biggest „tool“ for hosting a number of people leaving their country to start a new one in another one. But those places that house all these people seem to have quite some problems regarding the number of people in there, the proper sanitation, the spread of diseases and the violence resulting between the people living there.



Figure 1: Children waiting in line to be served during COVID-19 in an overcrowded refugee camp, they are neither keeping any social distance meter, nor wearing protective masks

Overcrowding:

Refugee camps most of the time are overcrowded since thousands of people live in confined spaces. This leads to many problems, including lack of supplies, the quick spread of diseases, the complete absence of privacy and proper hygiene, and of course, this consisted of one of the biggest perils during the pandemic.

Sanitation and Diseases:

Diseases and viruses spread very fast, due to the lack of the appropriate hygiene and sanitation in refugee camps. Refugees are not able to properly clean themselves and most of the time there is no sanitation in crucial areas, such as the bathroom or the kitchen, which are public spaces used by many people daily. Unfortunately, medical care is also limited since there is a shortage of medicine and doctors. Residents often suffer from illnesses that require immediate help from specialists. However, due to this lack in combination with the living conditions in refugee camps, these diseases might result in more serious problems or even death.

During the pandemic, forcibly displaced people were one of the most vulnerable social groups to the virus, due to the overcrowding created in those areas and the lack of sanitation. During 2020, the rare presence of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in refugee camps led to a vast rise in child labour, sexual and gender-based violence and a bigger risk of human trafficking. Studies show that the percentage of child marriages also increased since it was seen as an alternative to work.⁵ Many refugees experienced malnutrition, as most of them ate only once per day, due to the movement restrictions during the pandemic. A survey by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab actually revealed that at that time malnutrition was the biggest risk for refugee children. Refugees increasingly turned to survival techniques to deal with the pandemic's effects, by consuming less and low-quality food and borrowing money that they couldn't return.

Violence:

Refugee camps mostly in LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries) face security problems, which leads to violence. It can have several motives, for instance, competition for food, shelter and supplies, racism, and prejudices. Even though all types of violence take place

⁵ Unicef (East Asia and Pacific). "10 Million Additional Girls at Risk of Child Marriage Due to COVID-19 – UNICEF." UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/10-million-additional-girls-risk-child-marriage-due-covid-19-unicef> . Accessed 29 June 2023.

in refugee camps, the most common is sexual and gender-based violence against women. Studies ⁶ have revealed that women refugees are more affected by sexual violence than any other female population in the world. Women end up in these camps hoping to escape the crisis in their home countries after leaving but constantly face violence. They are often targeted by predators, who are mostly people that allegedly protect them, for example, refugee camp workers, border security soldiers, state agents and family members. According to studies⁷ from the International Rescue Committee, 1 in 4 women in one of the world's biggest refugee camps located in Bangladesh, has experienced gender-based violence and abuse during their stay. Gender-based violence can be divided into two categories. Direct Violence and the so-called Structural Violence. There are many policies that refer to security, medical care, food distribution and shelter, for example, lack of social support, lack of employment opportunities because of their gender and less financial support than men.

Women are terrified to ask for help and often if they do, due to the absence of a specific legal framework in refugee camps, they do not receive it. The UNHCR and several NGOs such as the IRC (International Rescue Committee) acknowledged that there have been many human rights violations and have tried to create guidelines to combat sexual and gender-based violence in refugee camps, however, most of the States do not abide by these rules. Therefore, it is necessary to provide counselling centres to refugee camps, with specialists and psychologists, and create an international legal framework, in order to aid women and help them cope with the resulting trauma.

Infrastructure:

The temporary structures created to shelter and house displaced people are not long-lasting and very limited, compared with the number of refugees. The shelters are made from easily-destructing materials, which cannot protect refugees from extreme weather conditions such as floods, thunderstorms and fires, that occur very often. Lastly, they do not offer any privacy and due to the limited number of shelters, refugees are obliged to share very small spaces.

⁶ Donnelly, Elizabeth R., and Viknes Muthiah. "Protecting Women And Girls in Refugee Camps." Welcome to LSE Research Online - LSE Research Online, The London school of Economics and Political Science, i. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/110299/1/Muthiah_protecting_women_and_girls_published.pdf. Accessed 21 June 2023.

⁷ Brito, Isabelle. "Protecting Female Refugees from Gender-Based Violence in Camps." THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS REVIEW, 6 Dec. 2022, www.iar-gwu.org/blog/iar-web/protectingfemale-refugees . Accessed 29 June 2023.

In most refugee camps there isn't enough funding, which leads to numerous problems when it comes to supplies and infrastructure. The NGOs that fund the camps are limited and the number of asylum seekers living there is augmenting. In refugee camps, there is limited access to clean water, because most of the time it is contaminated with different bacteria such as those occurring to Cholera or Hepatitis A/B. This leads to many problems, such as the spread of the above-mentioned diseases and generally, it affects any hygiene practice. There is also a lack of food, due to the overcrowding of the camps, and the limited sources of the camps, leading many individuals and mainly children to malnutrition which can even result in death. According to the UNHCR, "the Horn of Africa drought of 2011 cost more than 260,000 lives, more than half of these children aged below five".⁸

According to several studies⁹, almost 50% of refugee children are out of school. In most refugee camps there is neither proper infrastructure nor personnel to provide education. There is limited space to create classrooms, there are no teaching materials and also huge inadequacy of teachers in the camps. Another important problem concerning education in refugee camps is the language barrier. Children coming from other countries most of the time do not speak foreign languages, making it an impossible mission to communicate adequately with the volunteers working in the camps, and to some extent receive education. These difficulties make it really difficult to provide education to children in refugee camps. Therefore, it is really important to act on this matter, education provides countless opportunities to refugees and is also a fundamental human right.

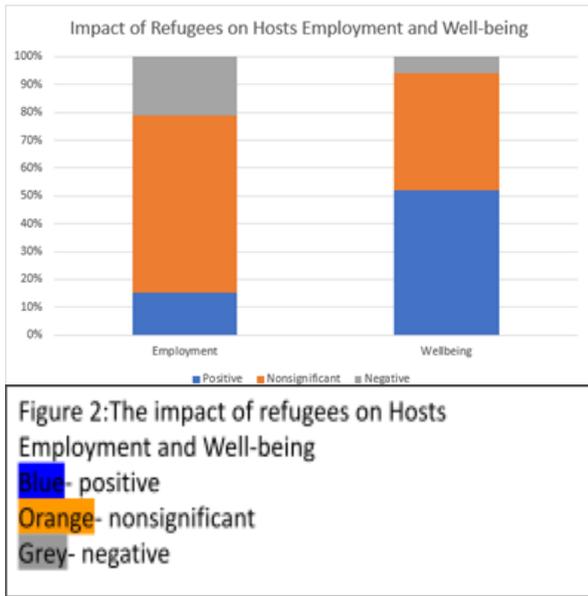
How do refugee camps help the host country's economies?

According to a study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute¹⁰ in a camp in Rwanda, when refugees receive financial aid they benefit the host country's economy. Refugees can have thriving economic lives if the refugee camps allow them to work, trade, and start enterprises, which strengthens the local and regional economy. Additionally, refugees who are eligible for aid transfers utilize them to make purchases, stimulating the economy with money. Employers' labour expenses may be reduced by the presence of refugees in the labour

⁸UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) "UNHCR says death risk from starvation in Horn of Africa, Yemen, Nigeria growing, displacement already rising." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/unhcr-says-death-risk-starvation-horn-africa-yemen-nigeria-growing-displacement . Accessed 30 June 2023.

⁹ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). "Education." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/education . Accessed 23 June 2023.

¹⁰FILIPSKI MATEUSZ . "Providing Aid to Refugee Camps Can Benefit the Host Country's Economy." *International Food Policy Research Institute*, 1 July 2016, www.ifpri.org/blog/providing-aid-refugee-camps-can-benefit-host-countrys-economy . Accessed 1 July 2023.



market, especially if they work sporadically. Due to this, local landlords, business owners, producers, and service providers are likely to see an increase in income, which can result in the growth of their enterprises and an increase in household income overall.

Sometimes, mostly in LEDCs refugees living in refugee camps where they are allowed to work, are in a better economic state than the actual residents of the host countries, which can lead to problems. However, if refugees are a part of the market, then the economy of host countries will definitely improve and as a result its residents' way of living and financial state.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Bangladesh

The Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh is the biggest one in the world, housing more than 860.000 asylum seekers, most of whom are children. It started developing in 1991 but in 2017 when a crisis occurred in Myanmar's Rakhine State, forced almost 750,000 Rohingya to seek refuge in Bangladesh. The residents encounter several difficulties, due to the flooding and the fires that occur often and destroy shelters, also there is no accessibility to hospitals and schools. The Bangladeshi government has tried to improve the living conditions in the camp several times, but they have failed because of the ongoing influx of forcibly displaced people.

Germany

Germany reported almost 1.24 million refugees and 233 000 asylum seekers during 2021 and currently has 490 shelters all over the country. It is the biggest host country for asylum seekers in Europe. More specifically, there are several refugee camps in Germany's biggest cities such as Berlin, Bremen, Hambourg and Heidelberg. Furthermore, Germany has provided great support to the UNHCR being the second biggest donor, after the United States. In Germany, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which processes asylum requests and ensures refugee protection and promotes national integration, uses a UN-approved procedure to determine whether an asylum seeker is in need of international protection.

Greece

Currently, Greece is home to over 50,000 refugees, the majority of whom will stay there. Generally, in Greece, there are 119,700 Asylum seekers, of which 19,100 are on the islands Lesbos, Samos and Chios. The refugee crisis in Greece was a result of the European Union's adoption of border controls and other regulations that prevent persons from seeking refuge in Europe. Due to EU rules, Greece and other Balkan countries are expected to bear a large portion of the burden for the lives of people who have travelled to Europe in quest of protection. Most refugees in Greece are unable to find employment since Greece still struggles economically after the financial crisis in 2015. There are many asylum seekers in Greece in need of psychological and medical assistance after fleeing their homes and women need protection from gender-based violence and human trafficking. Refugee camps there are overcrowded and lack resources and basic infrastructure to assist the residents.

Italy

Italy is the country that receives most of the refugees and asylum seekers who seek refuge in Europe. Over 700,000 asylum seekers and migrants have arrived in Italy since 2014, including almost 10 thousand unaccompanied children. It can be difficult to find reliable information regarding the rights and services that are offered in Italy concerning asylum seekers. Unreliable traffickers deceive refugees by promising them a better life in Europe, but few, if any, ever experience this. Few resources are available to aid immigrants in settling into their new areas, including those who are granted refuge in Italy. The quality of care and services provided at Italy's refugee camps varies, with most struggling with limited hot water, scarce food, run-down infrastructure and limited support from the EU.

Kenya

Four of the world's biggest refugee camps are located in Kenya, and more precisely, there it is located the Kakuma Refugee Camp which is the third-largest camp in the world, established and recognized in 1992. Today it hosts more than 180.000 South Sudanese and Somali refugees. Despite its size, the camp is still overcrowded which leads to a lack of resources, therefore many residents suffer from malnutrition. The camp alone might not offer many opportunities to the residents when it comes to employment and education, but refugee children there are highly motivated and constantly rise Kenya's national average.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

The International Rescue Committee was founded in 1933 with the help of Albert Einstein, with the goal to help people flee Nazi persecution. Today, the IRC helps people whose lives have been in danger because of conflict and disaster. They work in over 40 countries and their teams react quickly and stay as long as needed to help in the crisis. In 2022 the IRC helped 32,9 million people affected by the crisis, and after they have provided humanitarian aid, they aim to ensure that refugees understand their rights, later they provide training for jobs and if it's needed psychosocial support by specialists, to help them rebuild their lives.

Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab

The Global Migration Lab was created to ensure that migrants are heard in the communities in which they live. It runs operations in 192 countries and their actions vary depending on the situation. They provide food, shelter and healthcare in refugee camps while supporting in many ways people affected by violence. Their main goal is to create alternatives to migration laws to protect asylum seekers and mitigate human suffering. The Lab identifies locations that often present problems with migrants, and later conducts research in collaboration with several partners, using the results, they bring together specialists and try to alternate migration laws while providing short and long-term humanitarian aid to those in need.

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees)¹¹

This Global Organization has been providing aid to people who have been forced to flee their homes, since 1950 and is one of the biggest and most active UN agencies with over 20.000 personnel working in 135 countries. Their goal is to create a better future for forcibly displaced people, by protecting human rights and responding directly to emergencies. They equally protect displaced and stateless communities and work hard to understand how to collaborate with each group, since everyone has different needs. They are actively tackling gender-based and sexual violence, abuse and discrimination against any minority, by; following



Figure 3: UNHCR's first mission in 1951 was to help approximately 1 million Europeans including these refugees in a German camp, recovering from WW2.

¹¹ UNHCR's first mission in 1951 was to help approximately 1 million Europeans including these refugees in a German camp, recovering from WW2.

a victim-centred approach ¹², equipping specialized personnel to respond to sexual misconduct, maintaining liability in tackling sexual misconduct and upholding an active role. Until now they have helped more than 50 million refugees and continue to support the 108.4 forcibly displaced people.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1950	Creation of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
July 28, 1951	The 1951 Refugee Convention
October 6, 1967	The amendment of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which removes the geographic and time-based limitations, expanding the Convention to apply universally, creating the official "1967 Protocol"

¹² "In the context of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, a victim-centred approach is a way of engaging with victim(s) that prioritizes listening to the victim(s), avoids re-traumatization, and systematically focuses on their safety, rights, well-being, expressed needs and choices, thereby giving back as much control to victim(s) as feasible and ensuring the empathetic and sensitive delivery of services and accompaniment in a non-judgmental manner." UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for refugees)"Policy on a Victim-Centred Approach in UNHCR's response to Sexual Misconduct." *UNHCR*, Apr. 2020, www.unhcr.org/media/policy-victim-centred-approach-unhcrs-response-sexual-misconduct. Accessed 30 June 2023.

February 21, 1991	Creation of the first official refugee camp in Kenya “Dadaab Refugee Complex”
1991	Creation of the biggest refugee camp in the world, in Bangladesh the "Kutupalong refugee camp”
2008	Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security
December 17, 2018	The United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

THE 1951 CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES AND ITS 1967 PROTOCOL¹³

The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol constitute the foundations of UNHCR's operations. The convention specifies the internationally recognized term “refugee” and emphasizes the rights, protection and help that refugees should receive. Non-refoulement, which states that a refugee shall not be sent back to a nation where they face serious dangers to their safety or freedom, is the fundamental tenet of the 1951 Convention. The declaration lays out the fundamental minimum requirements for how refugees must be treated, including their rights while they are displaced so they can live a respectable and independent life. Furthermore, it identifies some groups of people, who do not qualify for refugee status as well as the responsibility refugees have to their host nations. It describes the obligations that States

¹³ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). "Convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees." *UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency*, Dec. 2010, www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/3b66c2aa10.pdf . Accessed 24 June 2023.

that are signatories to these treaties have under the law. Today, 146 countries are signatories to the 1951 Convention and 147 to the 1967 Protocol¹⁴.

S/RES/1820 (2008) (RESOLUTION 1820 (2008) ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS 5916TH MEETING, ON 19 JUNE 2008)

The resolution adopted by the Security Council at its 5916th meeting, on 19 June 2008, seeks protection for women and more specifically in operative clause 10, for displaced women. In this clause, the Security Council requests the Secretary-General to create efficient safeguards against violence, including sexual violence, for women and girls living in and around UN-run refugee and internally displaced person camps, after having consulted women-led organizations. As mentioned above, gender-based and sexual violence is one of the biggest problems in refugee camps and with this resolution the UN claim that refugee women and girls do not sacrifice their basic human rights when they cross a national border and that they should still be able to enjoy their rights to life and security of person.

THE GLOBAL COMPACT OF REFUGEES

On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees, which recognizes that without international cooperation, a durable solution to refugee crises cannot be accomplished, and it provides a framework for more equal and predictable responsibility-sharing. It offers a guide for ensuring that host communities receive the assistance they require and that refugees can live fulfilling lives for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders. It is a rare chance to change how the world responds to refugee situations, which would be advantageous to both refugees and the communities that welcome them. This non-binding framework can work as a basis to cooperate with NGOs and create further legal frameworks to improve the living conditions in refugee camps.

¹⁴ UNITED NATIONS Treaty Collections. "UNTC." *United Nations Treaty Collection*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-2&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en . Accessed 24 June 2023.

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PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The UNHCR has been the main organization helping asylum seekers and trying to improve the infrastructure and way of living in refugee camps. More specifically:

UN Convention on Statelessness

The UN Convention on Statelessness was taken by the UNHCR in 1954 along with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are the most important international conventions addressing statelessness. Furthermore, it establishes the legal definition of a stateless person and the minimum standards of treatment for stateless people in respect to their rights. These include but are not limited to, the right to education, employment and housing. Importantly, the 1954 Convention guarantees stateless people a right to identity, travel documents and administrative assistance.

The 1961 Convention aims to stop statelessness in its tracks and gradually reduce it. It creates an international framework to guarantee everyone's right to nationality. The convention's most crucial clause states that if a child does not acquire any other nationality, they will automatically acquire the nationality of the country in which they were born. Additionally, it lays out crucial measures to stop statelessness brought on by the loss of nationality as well as state succession. The treaty also outlines the extremely few instances in which nations may deny someone their nationality, even if doing so renders them stateless.

Global Action Plan to End Statelessness¹⁵

The Global Action Plan to End Statelessness was taken by the UNHCR in 2014 and sets out a guiding framework containing 10 Actions that need to be taken to end statelessness within 10 years. These 10 actions include the resolving of existing problems of statelessness, reassurance that no child is born stateless, removal of gender discrimination from laws concerning nationality, prevent loss of nationality, prevent statelessness in cases of State succession, protection to stateless asylum seekers, birth registration to prevent statelessness, nationality documentation to those entitled, accede to the UN Stateless Conventions and improvement of data on stateless populations. The aforementioned actions are dependent on one another, meaning that the accomplishment of one can lead to a partial accomplishment of another one. The UNHCR encourages countries to accomplish these actions by developing and implementing National Action Plans after having consulted the UNHCR.

¹⁵ UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for refugees). "Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014-2024." *UNHCR*, 2014, www.unhcr.org/media/global-action-plan-end-statelessness-2014-2024. Accessed 1 July 2023.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Creation of job opportunities:

Refugee camps in collaboration with NGOs can provide displaced people employment, after or during their stay in the camps. During their stay, they can work as security staff, or as construction workers to create new shelters and serve the community. That way, not only do the displaced people earn a salary and start becoming economically independent but also the infrastructure of the camps is ameliorated. After they leave the camp and are more autonomous they can work as personnel in NGOs working with the camps and provide aid to numerous people in need. Therefore, both sides earn a lot from this, on the one hand, refugees gain money and experience and on the other hand, the problems in the camps are confined. However, this can lead to a bigger unemployment rate in the host country since job opportunities won't be given to locals. This can lead to many problems, especially in LEDCs where employment is very limited and most of the population struggles with economic problems.

Funding to the NGOs:

If funding is provided to NGOs they can help refugee camps in many ways. Firstly, create new shelters and replace the tents that the refugees currently live in with prefabricated houses. Furthermore, the portable toilets can be replaced with stable ones which are more sanitary and also create spaces with shower facilities that are much needed, especially during the summer. Clean water can also be contributed, not only for drinking but to wash dishes, clothes and sanitize areas properly. Lastly, NGOs can send volunteers to LEDCs to provide education to young refugees, keeping in mind that 48% of displaced people are under the age of 18. Functioning schools are a huge need in refugee camps and NGOs can help create that.

Technology and Innovation

Technology and innovation play an important role in increasing cooperation between NGOs and governments to improve refugee camp management. Benefits include the ability to come up with cost-effective, scalable, and sustainable solutions to a variety of challenges. For example, comprehensive water supply systems can ensure access to safe drinking water, and solar energy sources can provide reliable electricity. New building materials and techniques can provide faster and more sustainable housing. Additionally, digital platforms can help coordinate efforts, share information, and track progress. However, some disadvantages include the initial cost of implementing the technology, potential challenges for training campers to implement and maintain this solution and data security and privacy concerns when digitized meetings are being held. It is important to balance the benefits with the associated risks to ensure that

technologies and innovations actually contribute to the well-being and long-term development of refugee communities.

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