

A photograph of a war-torn city street. In the foreground, several people are walking away from the camera, carrying large black suitcases and bags. A young boy in a yellow shirt is on the left. The background shows heavily damaged buildings with exposed rebar and debris. The sky is overcast.

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Addressing the Economic Impact of Forced Migration

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Introduction

Each year, millions of people are forced to flee their countries across borders to escape conflict, natural disasters or other life-impacting occurrences. Those seeking urgent sanctuary in other territories can have a massive impact on another nation. A majority of the world's refugees (approximately 85%) come from developing countries and migrate to other developing countries, putting economic strain on already lacking resources, such as food and space. An influx of asylum seekers can exacerbate already prevalent problems within a nation, and these refugees will often face stigma and difficulties in assimilating into society. The size of the host country and the strength of its economy affect how it copes with the economic impact of sheltering asylum seekers. Amidst the crisis of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, it is essential to focus on the host countries surrounding the region. The goal of this resolution is to establish protocols on how member states can prepare to take in those displaced from their origins.

Definition of key terms

Establishing Protocols: Establishing a procedure or system of rules governing affairs of the State.

Forced Migration: Forced displacement is an involuntary or coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region.

Refugee: A person who has left their country of origin in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disasters.

Asylum seeker: A person who has left their country of origin as a refugee and is seeking sanctuary in another country.

Conflict Zones: Land where military forces battle against each other.

Gross domestic product (GDP): is the standard measure of the value added created through the production of goods and services in a country during a certain period.

General Overview

In the European Union (EU), asylum applications in 2015 have surpassed any of those in the last thirty years. Where there is conflict, there will be people who need to flee it in order to survive. With large influxes of asylum seekers, countries that must host these refugees should address their needs and human rights, including food, shelter, education and the opportunity to rebuild their life by obtaining financial security. However, this has been immensely difficult and may seem unattainable for financially unstable countries, leading to mass issues revolving around hunger, homelessness and disease.

Those fleeing conflict zones often seek asylum in underdeveloped countries as they have less strict immigration/refugee laws, such as Sudan, one of the largest countries of asylum for refugees (1.11 million as of 2022). Sudan is also the country of origin for one of the world's largest refugee crises. When forced migrants arrive in large numbers in an underdeveloped region, they place enormous strain on public services and infrastructure, they can also impact the social and political system, leading to further deterioration of the host country. In this resolution, it is essential that we address that low-income countries host 74% of the world's asylum seekers, and consider that there must be an international urgency to help and support these host countries.

Refugees are often cast as an economic burden for host countries. People subjected to forced migration have negative economic impacts, including competing with locals for

available job opportunities, increasing house rents, increasing unemployment rates, land and real-estate prices, goods' prices; and pressure on housing, limited natural resources, energy and services. Economic impacts often drive more developed countries away from providing sufficient aid and argue that refugees 'steal jobs' and lead to cuts in wages and put pressure on public resources (e.g. hospitals, schools, transport, and welfare).

Member States need to understand that refugees and asylum-seekers only make up 10.6 percent of all international migrants, and 0.34 percent of the entire world population,

according to UNDESA data. The number of refugees has been exaggerated heavily in the media to make the issue of forced migrants appear unmanageable, however, with aid from well-developed member states, victims of forced migration can be given the chance to bring prosperity. Refugees have the potential to contribute substantial tax revenue, generate overseas trade due to worldwide connections, and benefit the economy. The macroeconomic effect of the refugee surge has the potential to lead to GDP growth, reflecting the expansion in labour supply as forced migrants begin to enter the labour force.

Major Parties Involved

Syria: As of December 2022, the Syrian Arab Republic hosts 6.8 million refugees. Refugees seeking shelter in Syria on the labour market in the early years of the influx were not allowed to work officially before 2016. The Syrian refugee influx has led to heightened demand for food, resulting in higher food prices and inflation. Along with strain on public services, which contributed to an increase in government expenditure as a result.

IRC (International Rescue Committee): The IRC's work provides durable economic solutions to refugees and the host communities affected in Syria. The IRC formulates conclusions on the statistics gathered and produces briefs. In regards to Syria, the IRC argues that the influx of Syrian refugees has stimulated host economies in the peak of a national economic downturn. Once refugees are stabilised, they bring more purchasing power and provide labour. However, data also argues that the influx of refugees has negatively affected the economy as asylum seekers create more competition for jobs and lowering of wages.

Ukraine: The ongoing refugee crisis began in February 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Over 8 million people affected by forced migration have fled Ukraine and have been recorded across Europe, while an estimated 8 million others had been displaced

within the country by late May 2022. Economist Giovanni Peri argues that refugees from Ukraine may be a “human capital windfall” for receiving countries like Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Hungary.

Poland: As of January 2023, Poland is currently under heightened levels of inflation, particularly in increases in energy and food prices. However, according to a report by Deloitte, “Ukrainian refugees in Poland could add between 0.2 and 3.5 percentage points to Poland's GDP growth each year during the first five years, depending on the efficiency of the country's integration policies.” This is all determined by Poland's and other Ukrainian refugee hosts' methods of integration.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The 1951 Refugee Convention- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

This convention highlighted issues such as refugees and work however the terms of this convention are not followed as refugees are not allowed to work in around 50% of asylum countries. Refugees not being able to work completely eliminates the opportunity for integration and leads to mass amounts of asylum seekers not gaining any money to purchase goods, creating a vicious cycle - the reduction of demand and production which leads to the reduction of wages and repeats, which affects not only the refugees but also the entire population of the host country.

Possible Solutions

Integration is the most essential factor in the rehabilitation of the lives of forced migrants if the member states efficiently make efforts and give support to integrate asylum seekers into the economy, the workforce and the labour market. We can view migrants

as not a burden, but as an opportunity. Of course, tackling the root causes of why people are forced to seek asylum would be ideal, however, in the current circumstances we face, we must use our resources to work together to fund countries under the highest strains of this growing influx.

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