

Forum: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Issue #1: Combating forced migration and displacement

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Introduction

Forced displacement and migration are some of the most pressing issues, both internationally and on a national scale as millions of people are forced to leave their homes each year due to multiple deterring factors. Displacement is associated with internal displacement within a country's borders, while forced migration is seen as migrating outside a country's borders into another country. According to the UNHCR, in 2022, 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced across the world. 62.5 million of those people were categorized as internally displaced, while 45.9 were refugees. The causes of forced displacement include

violence such as war or other internal conflicts, increasing criminal activity, persecution, natural disasters, political instability, and the effects of climate change. Forced displacement is a problem faced by people all over the globe in countries such as Ukraine, the DRC, Syria, and China, all of which have suffered in different ways. Conflicts such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine have proven to be the leading driving causes of displacement; according to the IDMC in 2022 Ukraine saw 16,870,000 million internal displacements due to this conflict. Natural disasters are also the leading causes of displacements, especially nationally; for example, China in 2023 saw 4.7 million internal displacements due to disasters based on data collected by the IDMC. Forced displacement and migration affect all countries worldwide on different scales and ways which emphasizes the importance of addressing this issue internationally.

Definition of Key Terms

Internal Displacements: Situations where individuals or groups are forced to leave their homes but remain within their country's borders.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs): Individuals or groups forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, or disasters, but who remain within their own country.

Asylum Seekers: Individuals who have fled their country and seek sanctuary in another country, applying for legal refugee status.

Forced Migration: Displacement of humans due to persecution, conflict,

generalized violence, or human rights violation

Refugees: People who have been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, conflict, violence, or natural disasters that need international protection.

General Overview

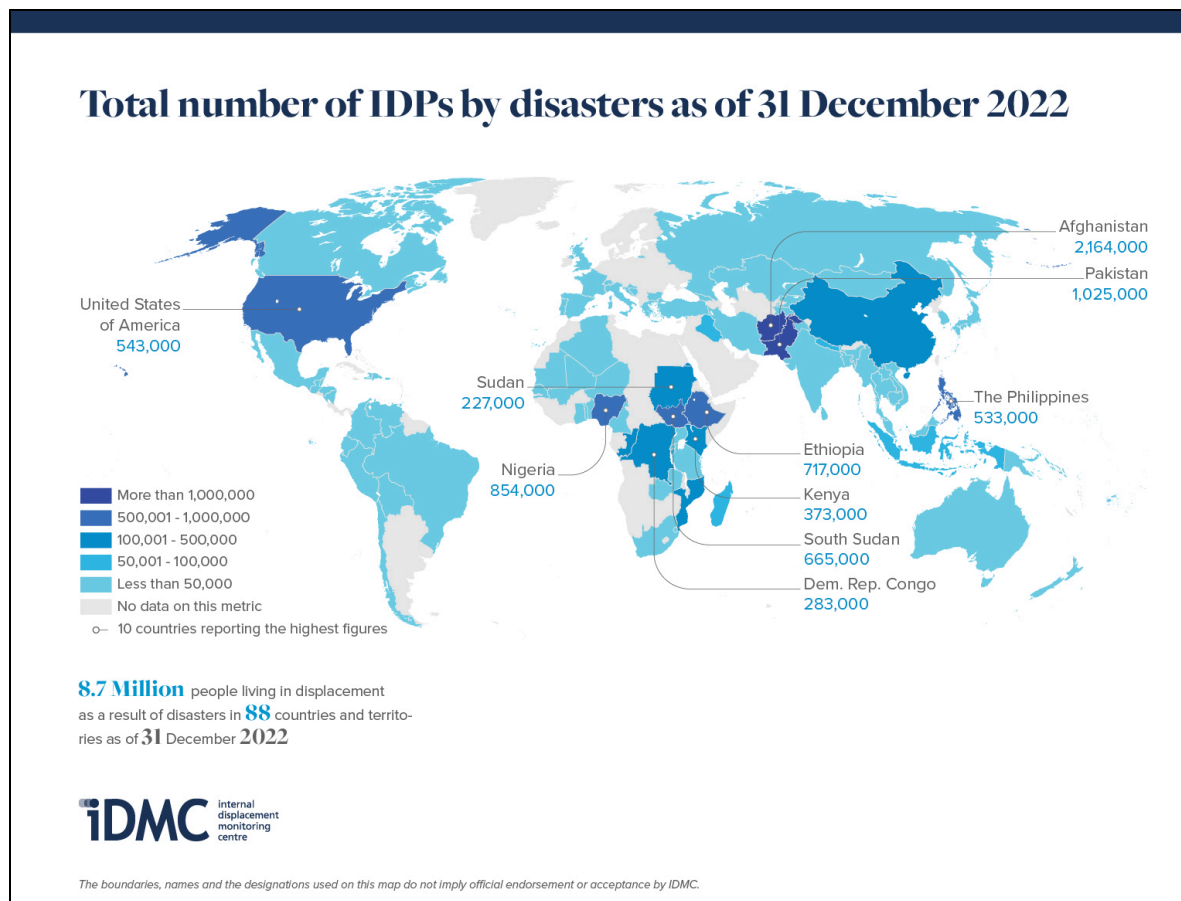
Driving causes and growth

Forced migration and displacement arise from various causes, including conflict and violence, such as wars, armed conflicts, ethnic and religious persecution, and terrorism. Human rights violations, including political oppression and systematic discrimination, also force individuals to flee. Poverty and resource scarcity influence economic migration, while large industrial development projects lead to forced evictions. Often, forced migration results from a combination of these factors, creating complex emergencies that require multifaceted solutions.

Impact of Climate Change

Climate change has negatively impacted global development as a whole and as conflict and violence increase in countries that are highly vulnerable and ill-prepared to adapt to climate change, the percentage of forcibly displaced people will not only increase but their health conditions will decrease as well. According to the World Bank's prediction, up to 215 million could experience climate-related displacement by 2050 (Guerrero). The majority of the time, displaced people are forced to live in isolated areas, cramped camps, or unofficial settlements, with little access to infrastructure and necessities, and in highly exposed areas to disasters caused by the weather such as heat waves, floods, or other extreme situations that normal infrastructure would be able to uphold. Leading to the need for countries to enforce better country

development. Addressing climate change as a root cause of displacement is crucial to breaking this cycle and finding lasting solutions. (Khan)



("Displacement, disasters, and climate change | IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre").

Human Mistreatment

When combating forced migration and displacement, people are often faced with the inhumane conditions of refugee camps, detention centers, and border facilities. Some individuals have the chance to live in host communities that share their space and resources with them, however, even those conditions in correlation with climate change affect their health. Yet, many migrants and refugees frequently face violence, exploitation, and denial of basic rights, such as access to healthcare, education, and legal protection. These individuals are

usually met with policies that prioritize border security over humanitarian needs, influencing their vulnerability and suffering. The lack of international cooperation and consistent policy further intensifies their situation, leading to longer displacement and psychological and physical trauma.

Role of the World Bank

The World Bank's evolution roadmap, focusing on climate change, migration, and pandemic preparedness, has yet to fully address forced displacement, which is seen with an accelerating increase. Despite acknowledging its importance, the Bank's engagement remains limited to a few initiatives. However, they have demonstrated potential through the IDA's Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) and the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF), which provides technical and financial support to host governments. For example, the Bank's funding in Kenya incentivized the implementation of a framework promoting self-reliance among refugees, demonstrating the positive impact of its engagement (Guerrero).

By prioritizing forced displacement worldwide, more financial support, better lending terms, and larger levels of control for refugee-hosting nations would be created. This is particularly important for low and middle-income countries struggling to maintain healthy debt levels, which affects their ability to borrow funds to support forcibly displaced populations. As the World Bank continues to address these pressing global issues, it is critical to acknowledge forced displacement in all aspects, involving not only climate-related displacement but other causes as well. If not, not only would it affect the global development outcomes but also the well-being of tens of millions of forcibly displaced people and their host communities worldwide (Guerrero).

Future Direction

The future of forced migration is likely to be shaped by a combination of climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and socioeconomic inequalities. As climate-related disasters become more frequent and severe, more people will be displaced, seeking safety and stability. Additionally, ongoing and emerging conflicts, with political instability, will continue to drive forced migration across borders. Technological advancements and data analytics may improve the management and tracking of migration flows. Still, without significant international cooperation and policy reform, the challenges associated with forced migration are expected to intensify.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Venezuela

Venezuela has been going through a migration and refugee crisis since around the early 2000s, in which more than 6.1 million people have left the country due to economic instability and political uncertainty. Venezuelans are often forced to migrate North in search of a better life and most of these migrants have to cross the Darien Gap on their journey North. Marked by continued political instability, Venezuela is one

China

China had a total of 4.7 million internal displacements caused by natural disasters in 2023 according to the IDMC. The most noticeable aspect of China's approach to internal displacement is its ability to quickly respond and evacuate civilians. Quick evacuations allow not only for fewer deaths but also more efficient relocation efforts. Furthermore, the nature of China's displacements allows for the non-violent reconstruction of affected territories. China's response

to internal displacement is a good example that can be used to guide other nations on how to properly manage the evacuation and relocation of civilians,

Ukraine

Caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, around 10.2 million people have been forced to migrate, both internally and internationally. The destruction of homes, constant bombing, and the persistent threat of death have forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country. Poland hosts almost 60 percent of Ukrainian refugees, but countries such as Moldova and Hungary also hold a significant percentage.

Turkey

Turkey harbors the second largest population of refugees according to the UNHCR with a total of about 3.3 million refugees, most of them being Syrians escaping from the Syrian civil war and the destruction it has brought to the country. Due to its geographical location in the world serving as a connection between Europe, Africa, and Asia, Turkey has the opportunity to combat forced migration in multiple levels.

European Union

EU member states hold numerous refugees from all around the world. Germany holds the most refugees out of any member state at 2.6 million according to the UNHCR, which also places Germany as the fourth-largest host of refugees in the world. Apart from refugee numbers, the EU had established trust funds for the African continent as a whole and Syria in order to address forced migration. The EU has engaged in collaboration with multiple countries especially in the African continent through the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa in order to halt and prevent international forced displacement. As an organization, the EU has

collaborated with outside states in order to reduce forced migration rates and attempt to tackle the root causes of forced migration.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The DRC's state as both a refugee hosting and emitting country truly portray the complex migration situation being lived in Central Africa in which people are forced to migrate from one country experiencing a crisis to another. The DRC has been facing conflict in its Eastern provinces with the M23 rebel group, which has caused 5.6 million internal displacements in the Eastern provinces of the country, as of 2023 according to the IOM. The DRC has also seen the unwilling migration of more than 1 million of its people due to the threats presented by the ongoing conflict.

Syria

Syria has been in an ongoing refugee crisis due to the civil war present since 2011; during this period, 5.5 million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries. Syria is one of the countries with the highest forced migration numbers, highlighting the need for aid, rebuilding efforts, and an end to the civil war.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description
1939-1945	During WW2, Germany saw the expulsion of 7 to 8 million people initiated by the Nazi government.
1980	Around 6 million Afghans were forced to migrate to nearby countries due to constant conflict during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
1991	Caused by the Gulf War between Iraq and a coalition led by the US, around 1.4 million Iraqis fled to Iran.

1994	In the spark of the Rwandan genocide, about 2.3 million Rwandans fled to neighboring countries.
2011-ongoing	According to the UNHCR, since 2011, around 14 million Syrians have been forcibly displaced (internally and internationally) as a consequence of the Syrian civil war, an ongoing conflict.
2022-ongoing	The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused the internal displacement of an estimated 3.7 million people, and another 6.5 million people have fled the country.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

The UN has implemented migration onto its 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs). It's integrated into targets to promote decent work, reduce inequality, and foster inclusive societies. The Agenda emphasizes protecting migrant rights, ensuring safe migration, and integrating migration policies into broader development strategies. Other treaties that have been made include The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, which serves as a crucial document emphasizing the rights of all individuals, including migrants, to freedom, dignity, and equality. Furthermore, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed a legal and normative framework for international migration, providing guidance and standards for the management and protection of migrants worldwide.

Past Action

In order to address the issue of forced migration, the UN refugee convention saw 26 states meeting in Geneva in July 1951. The convention requested participating states allow refugees to have the same rights as their nation's citizens and encouraged the facilitation of the naturalization process for refugees. Further action has been taken by the European Union in the form of

trust funds addressing both Africa and the Syrian migration crisis. The trust funds aimed to combat the root causes of forced migration, but most importantly, aid those in need and stabilize communities to the best of the EU's ability.

Possible Solutions

To improve forced migration in all nations, the root causes must first be addressed. This includes resolving conflicts and political instability through diplomatic efforts, promoting sustainable economic development to reduce poverty and inequality, and implementing measures to combat climate change and environmental degradation. Developing better or even basic infrastructure in countries with a high internal displacement population would positively impact the lives of these people. Therefore, immediate and correct support and protection for displaced populations are necessary to combat the current situation. To do this, treaties and agreements could be made between nations to enhance human rights protections, ensure access to education and healthcare, and foster inclusive governance to create more resilient and stable societies.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

While many of the Sustainable Development Goals resonate with the fight against displacement and forced migration, Sustainable Development Goal 16-peace, justice, and strong institutions, best embodies the actions that must be taken to solve this issue. The lack of peace caused by failing justice systems, war, violence, crime, and corrupt governmental institutions in multiple countries has proven to be one of the driving factors for displacement. To combat these causes peace first needs to be re-established in countries suffering from increased violence, criminal activity, or international conflict. Establishing honest governments and unbiased justice systems are critical tools for reestablishing

peace and combating this pressing issue.

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Appendix

<https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/2018-07/TP9>

- I. A crucial document outlining the legal and normative framework of international migration

https://www.physio-pedia.com/International_Legislation_Governing_Forced_Displacement

- I. Website describing the International Legislation Governing Forced Displacement

https://www.physio-pedia.com/Understanding_Migration_and_Displacement

- I. Important website to understand migration and displacement

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/migration-forced-displacement-and-human-development>

- I. Useful to gather in-depth information about forced displacement in Venezuela, Ukraine, and neighboring countries.