

# Requesting an Urgent Aid for the Displaced Migrants in Belarus

**Forum:** Advisory Panel

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## Introduction

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that by end of 2021, the total population of concern to UNHCR was approximated to be 84 million people. This number includes internally displaced persons (IDP), refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and stateless persons. Although they are providing their best aid, adversities and hindrances have only increased the number of refugees for the past years. With the stringent requirements that exist for a displaced person to be recognized as a refugee, many are simply left without receiving the full support and rights as a refugee. The United Nations has made several efforts to recognize the serious issue, such as the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the New York Declaration. Despite efforts from the United Nations, the migrant crisis has never left the list of problems to solve. The UNHCR predicts that the constant occurrence of conflict and war will displace 1.2 billion people worldwide by 2050.

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## Background

A large number of displaced people are fleeing from conflict or war. The Iraq War, conflicts in Afghanistan, and the War in Somalia have been some of the greatest producers of refugees fleeing conflict to seek peace and stability. Recently, the COVID-19 outbreak has struck many of those who were laid off, lost their income, and consequently were unable to support their families. As a result, they were forced to seek emergency assistance from governments. Many people have lost loved ones and are left with no other options. The epidemic exacerbated the problems of countries that were already struggling. As a response, many families have opted to seek assistance in other nations or even return to their homelands, resulting in a significant increase in migrant flows in various areas. In the recent past, the European Union (EU) has accused Alexander Lukashenko of enticing migrants with the false promise of easy entry to the EU as part of an "inhuman, gangster-style approach." Migrants were easily flown to Belarus with tourist visas permitted to them. According to reports from the National Public Radio (NPR), Belarus has been using refugees as pawns to



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pressure the EU to lift the economic sanctions that have been in place since December 2021. This has laid a burden on neighboring states as well as the EU in general, creating the Belarus-European Union border crisis. Due to both countries failing to reach an agreement to take hold of a portion of the migrants, migrants are suffering near the border with little to eat or drink in the cold. In the same state, Lithuania is deploying troops to its border with Belarus in anticipation of a possible migrant influx and is considering declaring a state of emergency. Since the convention prohibits countries from deporting refugees against their will, many European countries are ready to protect any refugees who have made it through, but they are never actively looking for them.

### International Actions

#### *1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Refugee Protocol*

145 nations assembled in Geneva from July 2 to July 25, 1951, to establish an international treaty on refugee protection. It established the word "refugee," separating it from "migrant," and highlighted nations' responsibility to defend refugees' rights. It was crucial because the treaty-protected refugees from being deported to a nation where their life or freedom is seriously threatened. Currently, the 1951 Refugee Convention serves as the cornerstone of refugee protection, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) serving as the document's 'owner.' However, because the agreement was created at a period when European migrants were a concern, many of the provisions were limited to European refugees.



*Nations signing the international treaty*

#### *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*

The Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness was signed on August 30, 1961, and became effective on December 13, 1975. This agreement is the major international document that establishes norms for the conferral and non-revocation of citizenship in order to avoid the occurrence of statelessness. The Convention gives effect to article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which acknowledges that "everyone has the right to a nationality," by establishing norms to minimize the incidence of statelessness. States may either award nationality to children automatically at birth or upon application to prevent statelessness in such instances. Finally, the Convention advises States to prevent statelessness during territorial transfers. These rules are intended to eliminate any potential nationality issues that may develop between states.

#### *The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*

Heads of State and Government met on September 19, 2016, at the United Nations General Assembly to examine issues relating to migration and refugees. The 193 UN Member States acknowledged the need for a comprehensive response to human mobility and increased global

collaboration when they adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It's a non-binding declaration that upholds nations' sovereign right to decide who enters and stays in their territory while also demonstrating a commitment to international migration cooperation. It gives a great opportunity to enhance migration governance, solve the issues that today's movement poses, and boost migrants' and migration's contributions to long-term development.

### Problems Raised

#### *Human Rights*

It is the responsibility of all nations that hold refugees and asylum seekers to protect their human rights; unfortunately, many nations have failed to do so. All humans are to be treated equally under the 13th and 14th article of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHRs), and all refugees have the right to seek safety regardless of their origin. The various classifications of displaced people, such as internally displaced people, stateless people, asylum seekers, and refugees, demonstrate the inequity of refugee treatment. Refugees face challenges such as lacking access to proper healthcare, instances of discrimination, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Furthermore, the question of whether refugees have the same rights as citizens of the country where they have been resettled is still debatable. The quality of life gap between countries has widened as average living standards have risen steadily. The social services in asylum-granting countries are much greater than those in the asylum-seekers home countries, and returns will have a difficult time readjusting to their previous way of life.



*Refugees Fighting for Human Rights*

### Key Players

#### *The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people. The UNHCR provides shelter, food, water, medical care, and other life-saving assistance to refugees around the world, and collects statistics of the current refugee population. The refugees are aided by UNHCR to either safely return to their homeland or to rebuild their lives in a foreign country if the prior option is unattainable. UNHCR works to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war, or disaster at home.

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### *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*

The International Rescue Committee helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and regain control of their future. It provides lifesaving support in over 40 countries helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future. The organization invests in the capacity of IRC country programs to respond to emergencies in locations where they are already present.



**18 million** people were provided access to health services

**5 million** people were offered outpatient consultations

**40** countries

**30 000** staff and volunteers

*Statistics shown by the IRC*

### *Poland*

Poland is vastly being effected by the Belarus-European Union border crisis. With Poland sharing the Kunica-Bruuzgi border with Belarus, thousands of migrants are attempting to cross the border from Belarus. Migrants easily crossing the Kunica-Bruuzgi border comes with the help of Belarussian soliders. Belarussian soldiers are helping migrants to make illegal crossings into Poland and Lithuania. Some people cross in small groups, while others claim to have been driven to the border in military trucks and told where to go. Poland, which has been criticised for rebuffing migrants and refugees at its border, has responded by building a razor-wire fence to contain the influx of people.

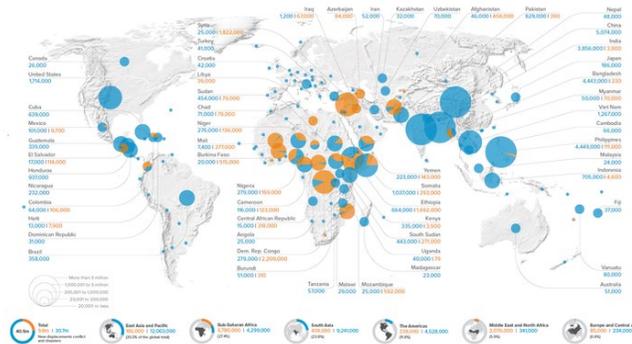
## Possible Solutions

### *Enforcing the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Quota System*

Even though a portion of the countries around the world welcomes displaced migrants, migrants must be outspread to a diversity of countries. As proper financial aid for migrants is nearly out of question, countries should begin reallocating migrants around the world rather than compressing the displaced migrants' population. All countries are responsible for the issue and take charge of some refugees. The UNHCR Refugee quota system designates several refugees that certain nations have to accommodate.

The number is determined through a nation's population size and gross domestic product which serves as a reflection of how well refugees would be able to integrate into the economy. The European Union is already debating a refugee quota system. If countries outside of the European Union also participate in the refugee quota system, it can be considerably more effective. The refugee problem, particularly the challenge of providing financial aid to refugees, will be efficiently overcome if the system is extended to the entire global society.

**New displacements by conflict and disasters in 2020**



*Migrant Displacements around the world*

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### *Providing Job Opportunities for displaced migrants*

Rather than giving permanent financial assistance to migrants, they must settle in one nation and find work there. If they find work after successfully resettling, they will be able to make money, will no longer require financial assistance, and will be able to pay taxes and contribute economically to the country. Demonstrating that migrants have successfully obtained employment in the resettlement region and have integrated into the new community will also help to improve unfavorable attitudes against displaced migrants. Many people are concerned about the potential for increased unemployment as a result of migrants, but because the number of migrants arriving in each country is small, there will be little change in the unemployment rate, and it will instead alleviate many of the problems associated with migrants. As a result, offering work opportunities to migrants can be a viable answer, and to do so successfully, suitable education and economic incentives should be supplied.



*A Group of Migrants Working in the Field*

## **Glossary**

*Migrants:* Any person who has resided away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, regardless of the person's legal status; whether the movement is involuntary or voluntary; what the causes for the movement are; or, what the length of the stay is.

*Asylum Seeker:* A person seeking international protection but whose request has yet to be processed

*Stateless Person:* A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law

*Internally Displaced Person (IDP):* A person who is fleeing their homes but has yet to cross their country's borders

## **Timeline**

1950- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is founded to help millions of displaced Europeans created from the second World War.

1951- The United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is established to create regulations and standards that define the definition of a refugee. The UNHCR used it to protect the rights of the refugees.

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*1956-* The Hungarian Revolution takes place which ultimately created a massive refugee crisis. It was an important event that showed the limitations of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

*1967-* The Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees renews the earlier Convention. The protocol is used alongside the fundamentals of refugee protection.

*1969-* The Organization of African Unity Refugee Convention is established and kicked off on June 20, 1974.

*1994-* The Rwandan Genocide crashes. More than 80,000 people died and millions of refugees were created.

*2013-* The Central African Republic Refugee Crisis occurs. More than 1 million Central Africans had to flee from their home, seeking refuge in neighboring Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad.

*2015-* The European Crisis breaks through with 1.3 million people traveling to the continent to request asylum.

*2020-* Alexander Lukashenko wins the presidential election, making him Europe's last dictator.

*2021-* The EU bans Belaruisan airlines from flying over European Union or having access to its airports.

*2021-* Belaruisian President Alexander Lukashenko threatens to allow "migrants and drugs" to pour into neighbouring countries.

*2021-* Belarus-European Union border crisis strikes. Belarus has sent thousands of desperate migrants to its border with Poland.

*2021-* Polish Border Guard publishes a video of Belaruisian military vehicles transporting migrants and instructing them on the Belaruisian side of the border.

*2021-* The EU accuses Belaruisian President Alexander Lukashenko of attempting to destabilise neighbouring countries.

*2021-* Polish Parliament votes to build a controversial wall on its border with Belarus to block an influx of migrants.

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