

FORUM:	General Assembly
ISSUE:	Measures to Tackle the Worldwide Refugee and Migration Crisis Through International Solidarity
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POSITION:	Deputy Chair of General Assembly

Introduction

The global refugee and migration crisis is one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. Driven by violent conflicts, economic instability, political persecution, and increasingly by climate change, more than 120 million people have been forcibly displaced by 2025. This figure shows an unprecedented level of displacement,

affecting nearly every region of the world and putting immense strain on humanitarian systems. While some countries have offered asylum, resettlement programs, or temporary protection, the burden has largely fallen on a small group of host nations such as Türkiye, Iran, Colombia, and Germany.

In this context, the principle of international solidarity — both political and financial —

becomes essential. It is only through a collective and coordinated global effort that the needs of displaced individuals can be met in a sustainable and dignified manner. This issue demands not only immediate humanitarian response but also long-term cooperation, equitable burden-sharing, and sustainable development planning. Given its scale and urgency, devising effective solutions to this crisis is especially crucial in this year's General Assembly debate, as the decisions made could shape global migration policies for years to come. Without comprehensive action, the crisis will continue to grow, exacerbating instability and human suffering worldwide. The purpose of this report is to examine the current situation, identify key challenges, and recommend practical and inclusive solutions that can strengthen international solidarity and reduce the impact of forced migration.



The Sudanese Civil War

Background

Situation in Sudan

In April 2023, violent clashes broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), resulting in a full-scale civil war. The conflict has led to the displacement of over 10 million people, including 7 million internally displaced and more than 3 million refugees fleeing to neighboring countries like Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. Khartoum and Darfur have seen extreme violence, mass civilian casualties, and destruction of hospitals, water systems, and food supply chains. Humanitarian access has been severely limited, with UN and aid agencies often targeted, and refugee camps now facing overcrowding, food shortages, and disease outbreaks. Chad alone is hosting over 1 million Sudanese refugees, despite lacking resources and infrastructure.

Situation in Ukraine

Similarly, in Eastern Europe, the refugee crisis has arisen in Ukraine. Since Russia's invasion in February 2022, over 6.3 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries, primarily Poland,



Refugees from Ukraine

Germany, the Czech Republic, and Romania. An additional 3.7 million people are displaced within Ukraine itself, especially from the eastern and southern regions, such as Donetsk and Kherson. While most European countries implemented temporary protection directives, integration challenges persist, including access to long-term housing,

employment, and education. Many host countries are now scaling back aid due to rising costs and political pressure, while Ukrainian infrastructure remains severely damaged by ongoing attacks.

Situation in Venezuela

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, Latin America faces its unprecedented displacement crisis. Venezuela's economic collapse, political instability, and humanitarian breakdown under Nicolás Maduro have forced over 7.7 million Venezuelans to flee the country, the largest migration crisis in Latin American history. Most refugees have fled to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, and Chile. Though some host countries, especially Colombia, have granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS), healthcare, housing, and job access remain limited. Many Venezuelan migrants travel on foot through dangerous routes like the Darién Gap between Colombia and Panama, facing exploitation, hunger, and violence. International aid remains underfunded, and regional governments are increasingly overwhelmed by the volume of arrivals.

Problems Raised

Unequal Responsibility and Strained National Capacity

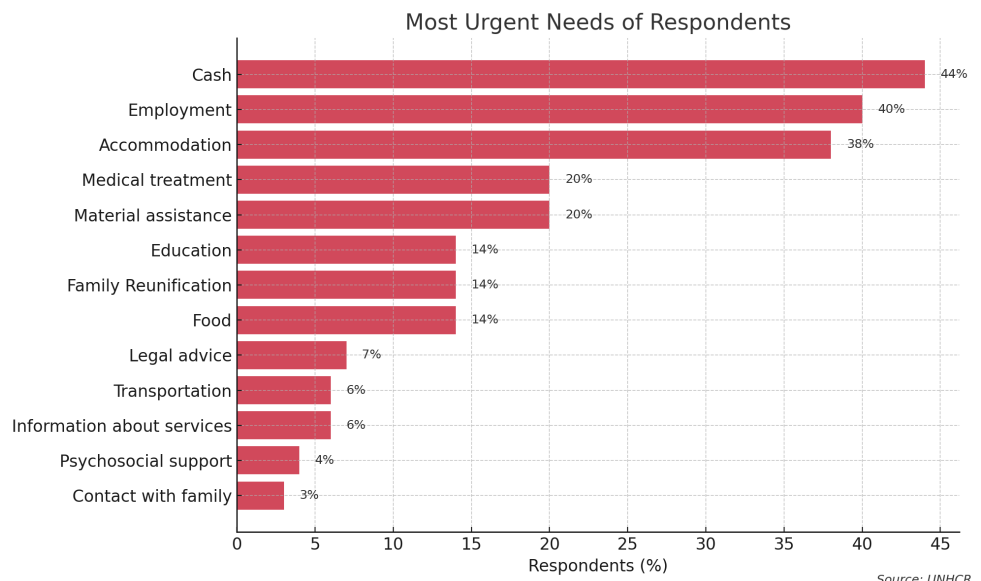
Large-scale displacement has placed pressure on a limited number of countries that receive refugees, most of which are already struggling with domestic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, or political instability. For instance, Chad and South Sudan, already among the world's poorest countries, now host over 1 million Sudanese refugees, while Colombia continues to absorb millions of Venezuelan migrants with a lack of external support. These host countries often face shortages of public services, weak infrastructure, and overburdened education and healthcare systems, making it difficult to accommodate the growing needs of both refugees and their own citizens. This imbalance, where a handful of frontline states carry most of the responsibility, has led to increasing frustration and calls for more feasible burden-sharing from the international community.

Protracted Displacement and Protection Gaps

Many refugees find themselves in long-term, unresolved situations with no realistic prospects for return, integration, or resettlement. Sudanese refugees remain in camps for years with no access to legal status or employment.

Venezuelans across Latin America face chronic legal uncertainty, while Ukrainian refugees live in temporary housing unsure if they will be able to stay or be repatriated. Protracted displacement often leads to repeated cycles of insecurity and abuse, particularly for vulnerable groups like

women, children, and minorities. In overcrowded camps and informal settlements, refugees face sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, and poor living conditions with limited legal protection. These long-term situations create not only economic dependency and mental health deterioration but also expose refugees to ongoing human rights violations with few avenues for justice.



Most urgent needs reported by Ukrainian refugees, reflecting common challenges faced in long-term displacement across global crisis



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Chronic Underfunding of Humanitarian Operations

International humanitarian organizations, such as UNHCR, WFP, and IOM, continue to experience massive funding shortfalls, leaving many refugee-hosting operations under-equipped and unable to meet even basic needs. In 2024, for example, WFP was forced to shut down food aid in Kenyan and Jordanian refugee camps due to budget constraints, while Venezuelan migrants in Colombia and Peru faced gaps in shelter and health services. In Sudanese refugee settlements across Chad, overcrowding, lack of clean water, and shortages in medical care have become common. These funding gaps not only reduce the quality of assistance but also fuel discontent among refugees and host populations. As donor fatigue grows, the sustainability of the refugee support program is increasingly at risk.

Rise of Xenophobia and Restrictive Policies

The arrival of large refugee populations has often been met with growing hostility, nationalism, and anti-immigrant sentiment, particularly in countries under economic strain. In parts of Europe,



Venezuelan migrants face rising xenophobia

Ukrainian refugees have seen support wane as the local population grows resentful over housing competition and resource allocation. In Latin America, Venezuelan migrants have been scapegoated for rising unemployment and crime, leading to discrimination, violence, and exclusion. Sudanese refugees in Egypt and other neighboring states also face marginalization, limited mobility, and

restricted access to employment. This climate of fear and resentment encourages governments to adopt more restrictive asylum policies, undermining humanitarian protection and increasing the risk of forced or arbitrary detention.

Social Tensions and Threats to National Stability

In countries already dealing with fragile political or social systems, the influx of refugees can contribute to social unrest and political volatility. For example, in Lebanon and Jordan, competition between local communities and Syrian or Palestinian refugees for scarce resources such as jobs, housing, and education has led to tension and resentment. Similarly, in Chad and Colombia, the arrival of large refugee groups has intensified local grievances over inequality and state neglect. In some cases, political actors have used refugee populations as scapegoats or political tools, worsening ethnic divides and

threatening national cohesion. Without proper planning, support, and integration, refugee crises can act as a destabilizing factor in already vulnerable countries.

International Actions

The Global Compact on Refugees

The Global Compact on Refugees, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2018, represents one of the most significant international efforts to promote shared responsibility for refugee protection. The Compact outlines four key objectives, including easing pressure on host countries and expanding access to durable solutions. While widely supported by the international community, it remains a non-binding framework, relying on voluntary contributions and political will. This limitation has raised concerns regarding its practical enforcement, particularly in protracted crises such as Sudan and Venezuela. Though the compact reflects a growing global consensus on the need for cooperation, its long-term impact has been constrained by inconsistent implementation and a lack of binding accountability.

EU Temporary Protection Directive

In response to the rapid displacement caused by the war in Ukraine, the European Union (EU) activated its Temporary Protection Directive in 2022. This policy allowed Ukrainian refugees to access residency, employment, education, and healthcare across EU member states without undergoing lengthy asylum procedures. The Directive was praised for its speed and coordination, marking a rare example of unified regional action. However, critics have noted that the same level of protection has not been extended to refugees from other crises, such as Syria or Sudan, raising questions about consistency and equity. While the policy provided crucial short-term relief, its long-term sustainability and selectiveness remain under critical examination.



The EU's proposal promising protection of Ukrainian refugees until 2027

UNHCR Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRPs)

To address large-scale displacement from countries such as Sudan, Venezuela, and Syria, the UNHCR has implemented Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRPs). These multi-agency plans aim to coordinate aid delivery, strengthen local infrastructure, and mobilize international funding in support of host countries. While they serve as an essential operational tool in humanitarian response, RRRPs face



significant funding gaps and logistical challenges. For instance, the Sudan RRRP 2024 seeks to assist over 1.5 million people in neighboring countries, yet much of the appeal remains underfunded. As a result, while the framework exists, its full potential is often hindered by financial limitations and limited long-term engagement from the broader international community.

Key Players

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



UNHCR providing support to Ukrainian refugees

As the leading international organization for refugee protection, the UNHCR plays a central role in coordinating humanitarian responses, providing legal protection, and delivering essential services to displaced populations. It has been especially active in coordinating the regional response plan for Sudanese, Ukrainian, and Venezuelan refugees. However, despite its extensive mandate, UNHCR's capacity is often

limited by underfunding and political constraints. In many operations, including those in Africa and Latin America, the agency has reported receiving less than half of its required budget. This financial shortfall, combined with growing global displacement, has made it increasingly difficult for UNHCR to fulfill its protection obligations fully.

European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) has emerged as a major actor in refugee policy, particularly following the displacement caused by the war in Ukraine. The activation of the Temporary Protection Directive in 2022 marked an unprecedented regional response, granting millions of Ukrainian refugees' access to residence and public services across the EU. However, the EU has also faced criticism for its selective approach to refugee protection, particularly regarding migrants from the Middle East and Africa. While the EU promotes burden-sharing among its member states, political division and rising nationalist sentiments have complicated a unified long-term strategy. Its policies continue to influence global debates on equitable refugee treatment.

Colombia



Colombia is one of the most important host countries in the Venezuelan migration crisis, having welcomed over 2.9 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees in recent years. Despite its own economic and social challenges, the Colombian government has implemented progressive measures such as the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) to help integrate Venezuelans into its health, education, and labor systems. These actions have drawn international praise but have also placed a major burden on Colombia's institutions and economy. As migration flows continue, Colombia's role remains central to regional stability, and its capacity to support refugees will depend heavily on sustained international support.

Egypt

Egypt has become a key receiving and transit country for Sudanese refugees fleeing the ongoing civil war. Its geographical proximity and shared border with Sudan have resulted in large-scale cross-border movements, with thousands arriving each week since 2023. While Egypt has permitted entry in many cases, it has also imposed stricter visa requirements and movement restrictions due to rising domestic concerns about security and resource scarcity. Refugees in Egypt often lack formal legal status and access to services, making them vulnerable to exploitation and poverty. Egypt's response reflects the delicate balance between humanitarian duty and national interest in regional refugee politics.



Egypt grows impatient with refugee burden as thousands stream across Sudan border

Far-Right and Nationalist Political Parties in Europe

Far-right and nationalist political parties in Europe, such as Rassemblement National in France, Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) in Germany, Lega in Italy, and Vox in Spain, along with Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and the ruling Fidesz party, have been at the forefront of opposing large-scale refugee resettlement. These parties and governments argue that accepting large numbers of refugees threatens national identity, security, and economic stability, often linking migration to crime, terrorism, and pressure on public services. Their platforms emphasize stricter border controls, reduced asylum quotas, or outright rejection of EU-mandated relocation schemes. Hungary has taken particularly



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hardline measures since the 2015 migrant crisis, including constructing border fences along the Serbian and Croatian borders, refusing participation in the EU's relocation quota system, and enacting restrictive asylum laws. Orbán's administration frames migration as incompatible with "Christian Europe," portraying refugee acceptance as a threat to cultural identity and social stability. The growing influence of these movements and Hungary's government stance has complicated EU efforts to establish unified refugee policies, as resistance from member states aligned with these views undermines collective burden-sharing and draws criticism from the EU, UNHCR, and human rights organizations.



Donald Trump's executive order on the 7-nation ban, refugee suspension

United States of America (Donald Trump Administration)

Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, the United States adopted one of the most restrictive refugee policies in recent history. Beginning with Executive Order 13769 on January 27, 2017 — "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" — the administration suspended the U.S. refugee admissions program for 120 days and indefinitely barred

refugees from seven predominantly Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Although this policy was reversed during Joe Biden's presidency, Trump's re-election saw the reinstatement of these refugee bans, signaling a strong stance against large-scale refugee resettlement and shaping U.S. engagement in the global refugee crisis. The significance of the U.S. position lies in its traditional role as one of the world's largest refugee resettlement countries; thus, restrictive American policies not only reduce direct resettlement opportunities for displaced populations but also influence the international community, emboldening other nations to adopt similarly exclusionary approaches and weakening collective efforts to share the global refugee burden.

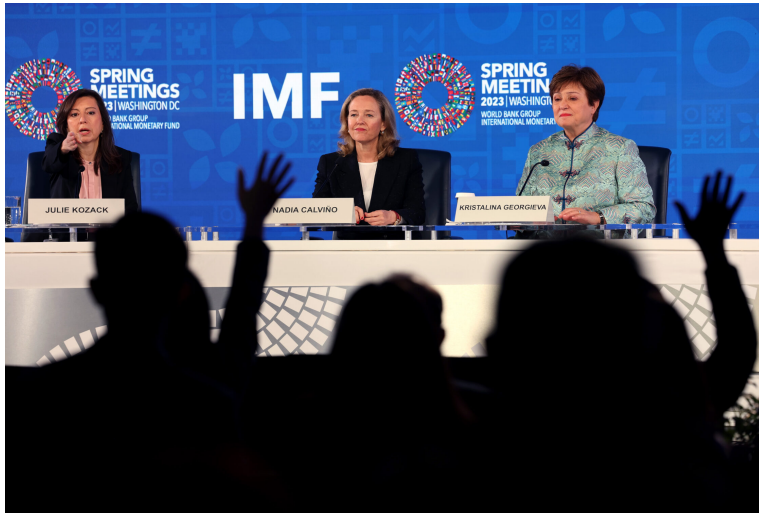
Possible Solutions

Developing a Global Refugee Responsibility-Sharing Agreement Under the UN

The current refugee protection framework is largely based on voluntary commitments. A possible solution is to negotiate a binding global agreement under the auspices of the United Nations that would establish a predictable formula for burden sharing. This could include resettlement quotas, finding contributions based on GDP, or technical assistance obligations. Similar efforts were attempted in the New York Declaration (2016) and the Global Compact on Refugees, but they lacked enforceability. A



stronger, treaty-based system, overseen by the UNHCR and the General Assembly, could ensure more consistent international engagement and reduce the burden on a small group of host countries.



World Bank commits to prioritizing forced migration at the 2023 Annual Spring Meetings

Establish a Global Emergency Refugee Fund

International financial cooperation is crucial for addressing the urgent needs of displaced populations. A proposed solution is the creation of a Global Emergency Refugee Fund, financed through contributions from UN member states, international financial institutions (e.g., the World Bank, the IMF, and the ECB), and private sector donors. This fund could be

rapidly deployed in crises like Sudan or Gaza to provide immediate humanitarian relief and infrastructure support to host countries. Precedents include the World Bank's IDA Refugee Sub-Window and the EU Trust Fund for Africa, which have supported refugee-hosting countries through concessional financing and development grants.

Expand and coordinate Regional Protection Mechanisms

Regional blocs and neighboring states should work together to build joint refugee response systems, including coordinated asylum procedures, shared reception centers, and regional resettlement frameworks. For instance, the European Union's Temporary Protection Directive for Ukrainian refugees allowed for coordinated legal status and mobility across 27 countries. Similarly, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in East Africa has developed a regional approach to protect Somali and South Sudanese refugees. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play a crucial role in strengthening these mechanisms by providing on-the-ground expertise, delivering humanitarian assistance, facilitating coordination between governments, and advocating for the rights of displaced persons. By partnering with NGOs, regional frameworks can benefit from increased flexibility, community engagement, and access to additional funding sources. Encouraging similar cooperation in Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia could reduce pressure on individual states and improve protection standards.

Glossary

Refugee

A person who has been forced to flee their country due to war, persecution, or violence.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

Someone who has been forced to leave their home but remains within their country's borders.

IDPs do not receive the same international legal protection as refugees.

Asylum Seeker

An individual who has applied for international protection in another country and is awaiting a decision on whether they will be recognized as a refugee.

Burden-Sharing

A Principle that promotes the equitable distribution of responsibilities, such as hosting refugees or providing financial support, among the international community.

Protracted Refugee Situation

A long-term displacement in which refugees remain in a camp for five years or more without access to a durable solution like repatriation, integration, or resettlement.

Repatriation

Redistribution of refugees from overburdened host countries to other states to share responsibility more fairly.

Non-Refoulement

A core principle of international refugee law that prohibits the return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they would face threats to their life or freedom.

Durable Solutions

Strategies aimed at ending displacement take three main forms: voluntary repatriation — the safe and supported return of refugees to their country of origin; local integration — permanent settlement with legal rights and opportunities in the host country; or resettlement to a third country — transfer to another state offering long-term protection.

Temporary Protection

A legal mechanism used during large-scale refugee inflows that grants short-term residence and access to services without undergoing full asylum procedures.

Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRPs)

UNHCR-coordinated framework that brings together governments, UN agencies, and NGOs to deliver aid and support to refugee-hosting countries in specific regions.

Humanitarian Corridor



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A safe route established by international agreements to allow the delivery of aid or the evacuation of civilians from conflict zones.



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