



32nd Annual

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

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SECRETARIAT

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*Gen'l Assembly 2d
Committee*

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*Treaty for the Non-
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 32nd annual Brigham Young University Model United Nations Conference! Your attendance and participation in this conference demonstrates your commitment to global citizenship and your dedication to creating and maintaining a better future for the world.

My name is Alix Hess, and I am pleased to be director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). I am currently a junior in the Political Science program at BYU and have a minor in Business. In the spring, I represented Italy on the United Nations Population Fund at the National Model UN (NMUN). My participation in MUN has opened my eyes to the world around me and helped me to be a more informed, caring, and active global citizen. My hope is that as you research, propose and support policy solutions, you will be energized and empowered to promote positive change in the communities and world around you.

This year, the issues before the UNHCR will be as follows:

1. Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees; and
2. Forced Displacement of Refugees due to Climate Change.

The UNCHR mandate is to provide relief to refugees and enable host countries to effectively administer aid, and the need to adapt programs and practices to changing world circumstances is as important now as ever.

Our committee Background Guide provides essential background and is meant to be a springboard for your further research. The more you learn, the more knowledge you will have to help create sustainable solutions to the dire situations facing forcibly displaced persons around the world. I hope that you learn a lot and that you gain greater awareness of the situation of refugees all around the world. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Warm Regards,

Alix Hess
Director, High Commissioner for Refugees
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Committee History

“We want to ensure that refugee rights are upheld everywhere and that they have access to shelter, food, and health care. This must continue. But we also want to create opportunities for education and livelihoods. This is what refugees want desperately.”
– Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) is one of the most comprehensive international organizations in the world, and was founded in 1945. It currently consists of 193 Member States which meet together to discuss current global issues. Both the organization and its Member States are guided by the UN founding Charter.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has existed since 1950, its purpose being to provide assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people affected by the extreme conditions of World War II. The membership of this organization has grown to 149 member states. Though it was originally only granted a three-year mandate, the July 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention, made the UNHCR a permanent organ of the United Nations organization.³ It has continued to fulfill its main purpose of protecting refugees up to present day, and in recent years was present in 130 countries with 478 locations.

Mandate and Functions

The UNHCR received its mandate from the United Nations General Assembly to pursue international protection and permanent, durable solutions for refugees. The United Nations General Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council govern the committee. The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol are legal documents that communicate the mandate and goals of the organization. UNHCR achieves its goals by partnering with NGOs, Member States, the private sector, and other stakeholders in order to connect displaced populations and host governments with the resources they need. It is not an enforcing agency, rather it serves to recommend, assist and supervise projects it is a partner in.

Agreed-upon language in Article 33 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees establishes the key principle of *non-refoulement*, which states that “a refugee should not be returned to countries where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom”. It further calls for the protection of refugee rights to not be expelled, except for under certain, strictly defined conditions (Article 32), not to be punished for illegal entry into the territory of a contracting State (Article 31), to be issued identity and travel documents (Articles 27 and 28), and right to work (Articles 17-19), housing (Article 21), education (Article 22), public relief and assistance (Article 23), freedom of religion (Article 4), access to courts (Article 16), and freedom of movement within the territory (Article 26). . When repatriation is impossible, UNHCR tries to help refugees resettle in their country of asylum.

The 1967 Protocol is another important document which removed geographical and time limits that were present in the documentation of the 1951 Refugee Convention and extended support and protection to all refugees around the world. In the current era, this mandate translates to protecting the lives, dignity and rights of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, stateless people, and returnees. Additional human rights can be found in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and *The Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989).

Implementation Tools

UNHCR is one of the few UN agencies which depends almost entirely on voluntary contributions from Member States, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to fund their operations. In fact, a mere two percent of the UNHCR annual budget is covered by subsidy from the UN regular budget. Because it allocates its own budget, UNHCR has greater flexibility and discretion in funding projects to protect the rights and meet the needs of refugees, displaced persons, and host countries in the international community, but can also mean that lack of funding can have a severe effect on the implementation of new programs. In 2017, for instance, UNHCR faced a 43% funding gap. Consider this when drafting solutions.

In addition, UNHCR achieves its purposes primarily through efforts at partnership through advocacy, fundraising, record keeping, and emergency response. Within the UN, the Office works most closely with DPA, DPKO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, and WHO. The High Commissioner, currently Filippo Grandi, acts a spokesperson for the Committee and an advocate for its goals at conferences with leaders and stakeholders around the world. UNHCR can pass resolutions that allocate funds towards specific projects or promote awareness of the issue. The 2018 Global Compact on Refugees recognizes the need for international cooperation to support sustainable solutions to refugee populations. Additionally, UNHCR tracks the number of refugees, IDP's and asylum-seekers around the world, providing meaningful information about where to allocate funding and focus efforts.

Definitions: Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Populations

The UNHCR is mandated to protect refugees, but this mandate also extends to other persecuted and marginalized groups, including asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, and returnees, or former refugees who have returned to their countries of origin. These groups are all important to consider when protecting populations in need of support, strengthening host country capacities, and preventing human rights violations among and towards disadvantaged, persecuted and marginalized populations.

A refugee is defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention as a person who has fled his or her home and country because of “a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” This movement can often be a result of war, terror, persecution, and natural or man-made disasters.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who have not crossed international borders but have relocated within their own country for the same reasons as a refugee would relocate outside of their country. Though not considered refugees, IDPs are also often settled in locations where

they do not receive necessary support. **Stateless persons** are unique in that they do not have a recognized nationality and do not belong to any country, and their lack of nationality documents can exclude them from access to much needed government services. **Asylum seekers** are individuals who say they are refugees but have not yet had their refugee status evaluated in the country to which they have fled. **Returnees** are former refugees who have returned to their countries of origin but are in need of continual support during reintegration.

Recent Discussion

Refugee and otherwise displaced populations have more than doubled over the past decade. There are a total of 82.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. This is the highest number ever recorded and is reported to be an increase of 2.9 million over the previous year. Recent discussion has also noted the effects of international conflicts, changing climates, and the pandemic on the increase in and migration of refugee and displaced person populations.

Additionally, an estimated 35 million (42%) of the 82.4 million forcibly displaced people (end-2020) are children below 18 years of age. Between 2018 and 2020, an average of between 290,000 and 340,000 children were born into refugee life per year. UNHCR discusses the current and changing needs of refugee and otherwise displaced youth, both how to protect them now and how to protect their opportunities for bright futures.

Approximately 86% of the world's refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad are hosted by developing countries. 73% of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad lived in countries neighboring their countries of origin at the end of 2020. Dialogue about how to strengthen refugee resettlement countries is also at the forefront of the UNHCR agenda through infrastructure, social programs, and international support.

Conclusion

Filippo Grandi, the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, shared the importance of continuing the mission of the UNHCR: "We want to ensure that refugee rights are upheld everywhere and that they have access to shelter, food, and health care. This must continue. But we also want to create opportunities for education and livelihoods. This is what refugees want desperately." UNHCR serves as a needed support to refugee and otherwise displaced populations around the world and has the vision of creating a world where peaceful international relations and increased means of support for displaced groups will render the need for refugee camps and intervention unnecessary.

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I. Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees

“Only together can we end this pandemic and recover. Only together can we revive our economies. And then, together, we can all get back to the things we love.” -- UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Introduction

The needs of refugees have not decreased as a result of the pandemic; if anything, they have multiplied. The COVID-19 pandemic has not ended conflict, and violence in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan, Northern Mozambique, and the Sahel region of Africa continues. Adverse economic and safety conditions in Venezuela and across Central America have also continued. In most cases, the pandemic has made conditions worse as supply chains have been disrupted and international trade has slowed. This both decreases opportunities for work and increases shortages in available goods and services.

Of the more than 165 million people who have contracted COVID-19 as of May 2021, stateless and forcibly displaced persons have been among the hardest hit. Not only have they had less access to medical support, they have been greatly impacted by food, resource and employment insecurity. They are also faced with greater hardship in returning to their countries of origin and resettling in new host countries due to travel restrictions. In 2020, only 34,400 refugees were resettled to third countries, a 69 percent decrease from the year before.

A recent UNHCR Global Trends report on Forced Displacement in 2020 highlights the necessity of working together to provide durable solutions to the refugee crisis:

“With numbers having risen to more than 82 million, the question is no longer if forced displacement will exceed 100 million people – but rather when. The need for preventing conflicts and ensuring that displaced people have access to solutions has never been more pressing than now. The announcement by the US Government to admit more resettled refugees [and] the Government of Colombia’s announcement in February 2021 to grant temporary protection status to more than one million Venezuelans, [have offered hope, ‘even as conflict and displacement continue around the world’]. Many more such symbols of solidarity and responsibility-sharing are needed to fulfil the rights, needs and, where possible, hopes of the displaced people around the world – and also realize the vision of the Global Compact on Refugees.”

Current Situation

This year started with a record 235 million people needing humanitarian aid and protection – a 40 percent increase in just a year. While refugees have struggled with food, job, education, and health care insecurity, Member States have also been hurting, and many countries have cut back humanitarian aid in an effort to support their own struggling economies. This creates a unique challenge which requires solutions to stretch the donations received to meet the dire needs of refugees and displaced persons in the best ways possible.

One particular challenge is that limited access to education materials and lockdowns have made it almost impossible for refugee students to attend school. Finding low cost and accessible technology solutions has been a recent topic of discussion. One teacher in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya started broadcasting lessons to her students on a community radio station. This solution reflects a simple, cost effective, and localized approach, which ultimately benefitted over 100,000 students and their families listening. Also, unstable job security creates economic issues for refugees. Research by the Norwegian Refugee Council carried out across 14 countries, including a survey of 1,400 refugees and crisis-affected people, found that a staggering 77 percent of respondents had lost their jobs or income since the start of the pandemic.

Refugee populations are also affected by food insecurity and other needs not being met due to supply chain disruption as a result of the pandemic, economic downturns, and civil unrest or other conflict. Many have volunteered their time and services towards addressing the pandemic in their own local areas.

Preparations to Mitigate Effects of Future Outbreaks, COVID-19 and Other Diseases

An Al Jazeera opinion piece noted that some of the greatest disadvantages to refugee camps that have come as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic actually were not to the immediate health of residents. The author notes that limited contact with host country populations and effective COVID-19 prevention campaigns may have helped to stave off potentially disastrous outbreaks. The young age of many refugees meant that many may have been less severely affected by the disease. Despite all of these variables that may have helped to avoid catastrophe in the past, the new Delta variant of COVID-19 presents additional challenges as risks to personal health of refugees and their access to basic supplies and opportunities.

Combatting Susceptibility to and Spread of Disease

The Delta variant is more contagious than the other strains, making any event of outbreak all the more dangerous. The World Health Organization (WHO) has called this version of the virus “the fastest and fittest.” Unvaccinated people are most at risk, and this includes children and young people. Additionally, vaccination is the best protection against the virus, but no vaccine has yet been developed for children 5 to 12, and other vaccines are still waiting authorization from local governments for adolescent inoculations.

With vaccine rates increasing in some areas and not changing in others, the aggressive Delta variant could lead to ‘hyperlocal outbreaks’ in which a largely unvaccinated population could be hit hard and fast by the virus, overwhelming health systems and leading to more adverse health outcomes. This highlights the necessity of both inoculating refugee communities and strengthening the health care systems and resources available around refugee and displaced person encampments. Doctors Without Borders has worked extensively with communities in dire need of health services and has noted how increasing numbers of variants have made it almost impossible to contain and treat the disease, especially in Brazil. The organization also demands “equitable global access” to vaccines, which entails using existing supply chains to funnel surplus vaccines in areas of need.

Living conditions for newly resettled refugees also affect their risk of contracting the disease. Multigenerational living arrangements can influence the spread of COVID-19 and living in neighborhoods that are far from health care facilities can make it harder to get care if sick. Lack of personal transportation, inability to read or communicate in the language of the host country, lack of personal funds, and struggles to integrate and gain social networks within the host community can also impact their opportunities for care.

Additional research will also benefit the international community as it seeks to address the spread and outcomes associated with Delta and other variants. Knowledge about effectiveness of different vaccines and the possible need for booster shots will also help with disaster planning and other preparations.

Securing Funding and Resources

In 2021, the UN appealed for \$35 billion to put towards humanitarian assistance. Mark Lowcock, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said that the global health crisis has greatly impacted the number and situation of displaced persons, saying that the situation is dire for millions and has left “the UN and partners ‘overwhelmed’”. In addition, approximately 85% of the world’s refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries, putting stress on already fragile finances and health systems. With the need for aid growing and the ability for organizations to provide that help diminishing, innovative, culturally sensitive, and locally minded solutions are required.

Indirect Socioeconomic Impact and Support

“The COVID-19 pandemic is having, and will have for several months or even years, serious effects on economic growth in the most affected countries. Reduction of industrial and tertiary services production is affecting domestic consumption, supply chains, international trade and the balance of payments, public and private debt and fiscal space. Diminishing fiscal revenues and the repurposing of already limited government budgets for the COVID-19 response will negatively impact already over- stretched social programmes and services (health, education, etc.), leaving the most vulnerable without essential services.”

Labor shortages, decreased export earnings, and supply shortages due to panic buying are all macroeconomic effects of the global pandemic. There are also expected effects on livelihoods, food security, protection of rights, education and society, supply chains and logistics. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has perceived IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, migrants, people with disabilities, marginalized groups and people in hard-to-reach areas to be among the most affected and most at-risk population groups as they lack economic or physical means to access healthcare and may not have adequate healthcare available in their area at all. UNOCHA also advocates for the monitoring of situation and needs, as well as response monitoring to observe the effectiveness of response and preparedness actions taken.

One way to support both refugees and local economies is through cash-based interventions. These programs provide cash to refugees and allow them to be consumers in the local economy and to

fulfil their needs in a dignified way. The Turkish Red Crescent has seen success in their cash-based assistance program, Kizilaykart. The overarching distribution of cash cards allows the organization to target eight different programs, including food assistance and vocational training, standard education, language training to expand refugee opportunities to learn and earn, all under one overarching initiative. This has also helped to consolidate efforts of donating partners in order to achieve greater impact.

Conclusion

UNHCR faces the challenge of meeting increased refugee and otherwise displaced persons' needs while anticipating decreased funding for programs. The current situation of forcibly displaced persons highlights the need for socioeconomic support in addition to healthcare availability. Long-term solutions must be planned and action taken now to mitigate expected future consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects regarding the health and well-being of forcibly displaced persons worldwide.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can funds be spent in a way that maximizes the effect of each contribution in order to accomplish the greatest benefits for displaced populations?
2. What are ways to expand on past preparation and previously demonstrated solutions?
3. How can UNHCR partner with local activities to maximize the effectiveness of relief efforts?
4. How do the needs of forcibly displaced populations extend beyond that of medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies?

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II. Forced Displacement of Refugees due to Climate Change

“Migration is often misperceived as the failure to adapt to a changing environment. It is, however, one of the main coping and survival mechanisms that is available to those affected by environmental degradation and climate change.” – Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana Chief of Mission.

Introduction

Climate change is a present and ever-growing issue in the world today. Nansen Conference estimates of a 50 percent chance of global temperatures rising by 3-4°C, even if countries adhere to the emissions reductions pledged at the UN climate negotiations in Cancún in 2010, means that “severe outcomes are more likely than benign ones” as the surface temperature of the earth continues to rise. Though a global concern for all, the most vulnerable individuals are those with the least resources.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the likelihood of being displaced due to climate change and natural disaster has more than doubled since 1970, with an estimated 203.4 million people displaced between 2008 and 2015. Of the 30.6 million people displaced across 135 countries in 2017, 60 percent were as a direct result of disasters. The UNHCR Global trends report has declared that the “dynamics of poverty, food insecurity, climate change, conflict and displacement are increasingly interconnected and mutually reinforcing, driving more and more people to search for safety and security.”

While regional refugee instruments like the 1984 Cartagena Declaration and the 1969 OAU Convention offer a wider definition of providing protection to refugees fleeing conditions that “seriously disturb public order”, the concept of “climate refugees” is still being developed in the eyes of international refugee law. However, UNHCR is aware of the situation of “persons displaced in the context of disasters and climate change” and is supportive in the inclusion of climate migration in development plans.

It is important to note the terms of disaster prevention and resiliency. Prevention can be associated with measures like the Paris Climate accords, which seek to reduce emissions correlated with global warming and disaster. Resiliency is generally defined as the capacity of a community to withstand or rapidly recover from a disaster.

International and Regional Framework

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action outlines targets that address the climate crisis, including strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities of states to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, integrating climate change into national policies, strategies, and planning, and improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

The UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, addresses all dimensions of migration at the international level including forced migration due to climate change and disaster. Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted the Global Compact for Migration as

resolution 73/195, recognizing forced migration due to climate change at the 2018 Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration.

In 2015, UNHCR affirmed the goals of the Kampala Convention, which specifically recognizes IDPs displaced by “disasters and climate change impacts”. UNHCR affirms the Nansen principles regarding migration due to climate change, including the need to ensure adequate human rights for refugees displaced by climate change and disasters. Foundational knowledge for the Nansen document came from a 2011 Bellagio expert roundtable meeting on “Climate Change and Displacement: Identifying Gaps and Responses”, as well as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 focused on building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The Hyogo Framework defines disaster risks as “hazards interact[ing] with physical, social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities”. It further advocates that the international community use “knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels”.

The Hyogo protocol also outlines responsibilities of states, regional organizations and institutions, international organizations and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), as well as standard practices for all parties to implement. It is of increasing importance that migration due to climate change become a facet of development planning and support for refugee and otherwise displaced persons.

Effects of Climate Change and Disasters

Along with increases in global temperature, increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Increases in coastal flooding is expected to increase displacement around coastline. Insect-borne disease outbreaks are expected. Decreased crop yields due to changing weather patterns are an additional risk.

The contribution of ocean acidification to the migration and depletion of marine life is another result of global warming. The depletion of fish stocks represents food insecurity and financial stress for locals to the area. It may be beneficial for long term developmental planning to consider this possibility. It is also of worth to note the potential for state and non-state actors to weaponize water as it becomes more scarce in certain regions of the world. Another source of food insecurity is famine. Droughts and limited resources can create a food scarcity issue, but lack of food aid turns a food insecurity into a famine. Their impact on a country can be devastating and long lasting, triggering mass migration movements and widespread conflict. This mass migration may especially affect low-lying island states that rely on fish populations and that could be submerged as ocean levels rise. This presents the unique issue of a potential increase in the global population of stateless individuals.

The effects of the climate on migration are expected to be largest in three developing regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. Most migration is expected to be within the borders of individual countries, but this shift can stress local economies and social and physical environments. Part of the expected migration is large scale movement towards urban spaces, and because of this, frameworks like Habitat III increasingly encourage countries to implement long-term development plans.

Climate Change and Conflict

Emilie Yam, head of communications for the International Growth Centre, recently wrote on climate change and its effects on conflict. She cites an academic article that synthesized 55 studies which found that for “every 1 degree Celsius increase in temperature increases conflict between individuals (for example, assault, murder) by 2.4% and conflict between groups (for example, riots, civil war) by 11.3%.” Climate change does not cause climate change directly, but it is known as a “threat multiplier”, which can amplify tensions of resource scarcity or civil conflict. In fact, of the 20 countries deemed most vulnerable to climate change, 12 are involved in conflict.

For example, the Sahel region of Africa has been a focus of discussion regarding climate change and conflict. In 2018, the United Nations Security Council President stated: “The Security Council recognises the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel region, including through drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity, and emphasizes the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors.” As climate change continues to narrow economic opportunities around the Horn of Africa, an increase in piracy around the coast is likely.

The Need for Long Term Solutions

UNHCR 2017-2021 Strategic Directions include commitments in relation to climate change and resulting displacement, including commitments to protect those affected and respond to emergencies. This can be accomplished through means of field operations, legal advice, normative development, policy coherence, and research and knowledge production to fill gaps in current knowledge. Operational solutions can target both internally and internationally displaced populations. 1999-2016 data show that the majority of UNHCR Disaster IDP Operations have taken place in Africa and Asia, and the data also show that many hazard related IDP operations are resultant from conditions of floods, earthquakes, and extreme storms.

UNHCR also currently participates in a process led by the Commonwealth, UNEP, and the UNFCCC on developing an interactive legal tool to support states in implementing the Paris Agreement and meeting individually-set benchmarks. It also subscribes to goals set within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework), which advocates for “substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of person, businesses, communities, and countries”. The Sendai Framework recognizes the State as having the primary role to reduce disaster risk, increase preparedness and promote resilience, and it also holds that responsibility should be shared with stakeholders.

One writer for Humanity in Action, a humanitarian organization, puts it best. Long term policies must “(1) recogniz[e] climate change refugees as an independent group of displaced individuals; (2) establish an effective, long-term migration scheme for disappearing nations; and then (3) redirect funds towards resettlement”. These clear-cut priorities are one example of an agenda

promoting long term and sustainable change in the way that climate refugees are recognized and assisted as members of the international community.

Additional Research

Research regarding the role of climate adaptation in reducing the role effects of climate on conflict, for example in the areas of social protection or agricultural technology, One benefit of studying climate change is that compared to other security risks, can be modeled with a relatively high degree of certainty. In 2009, UNHCR developed analysis to address conceptual gaps on statelessness related to climate change and sea level rise, “Climate Change and Statelessness” and in 2011 “Climate Change and the Risk of Statelessness: The Situation of Low-lying Island States”. Additionally, UNHCR has partnered with academics to produce legal and policy research pertaining to climate change displacement and international law and the different policies required for different types of migration due to climate changes, whether forced displacement or planned movements. Despite this need for additional research, funding has been difficult to secure, especially this year, and further partnerships would likely be required to reach knowledge-attainment goals.

With so many different stakeholders and a variety of different relations held by those stakeholders with the natural environment, it is important to promote awareness and discussion of the impacts of climate change. One such approach, the Landscape Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction, focuses on inclusive learning processes that allow all members of a community to gain understanding of risks and participate in risk intervention planning. The goal of this inclusive process is to implement innovative and localized preparatory measures to mitigate the effects of climate-related risks to the community.

Conclusion

Projections of future migration due to extreme climate-related events demonstrate the various possible outcomes of internal displacement and cross border movement internationally. International frameworks exist and additional guidelines can be developed to address climate-change migration concerns and needs. Ultimately, uncertainty of resource scarcity, natural disaster frequencies, and migration patterns necessitates further research and development planning on state, regional, and international levels.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can previously existing frameworks be further developed to adapt to new information and changing circumstances?
2. How can stakeholders participate more in planning responses?
3. How are the needs of individuals forcibly displaced due to climate-related disasters both the same and different from those of the general refugee and IDP population?

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