

Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Global and Regional Perspective

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#LSERefugees

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Forced Displacement: An Increasingly Prominent Global Issue

In recent years, forced displacement has become an increasingly prominent global issue. The changing scale, complexity and rapid pace of evolution of forced displacement have challenged governance at the global, regional and country levels. There is an increasing recognition of the need to address the underlying causes of movements, to better protect those on the move, to mitigate growing regional security concerns, and to find improved ways of funding international aid for the prevention of conflicts and addressing the consequences of forced displacement.

Ten years ago, there were 38 million people displaced by conflict, today there are over 65 million. While the world is witnessing an increase in new conflicts, old ones are not being resolved. Durable solutions are few and far between: globally, less than 1 percent of refugees are resettled to a third country; and the number of returning refugees has remained rather low in recent years. As a result, major refugee displacement crises last for an average of 17 years.

Many reckon that in a world generating \$78 trillion in annual global wealth, insufficient resources have been devoted to preventing conflict and adequately addressing the consequences of forced displacement. The world humanitarian aid budget for 2014 was the largest ever recorded, but it also created the biggest shortfall in history, with just 62 percent of the total needs identified by its annual appeals process actually being funded.

The world and the UN recognise the fact that forced displacement has become a priority global issue deserving

urgent attention, an issue now finding the place it deserves in the agendas of the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of Twenty (G20) meetings and UN International conferences. In 2016 alone such important high-level summits include the London Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region held in early February, the 30 March High-Level Summit on Resettlement and Alternative Pathways of Admission for Syrian Refugees, the World Humanitarian Summit, the upcoming September UN High-Level Summit on Large-Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants and President Obama Leaders' Summit on Refugees.

A Region in the Eye of the Forced Displacement Storm

There are 19.5 million displaced people in the Middle East and North Africa region, which continues to host a disproportionate number of conflicts, with the Syrian crisis the largest refugee emergency since World War II.

Whilst over 500,000 Syrian refugees have reached the shores of Europe since 2015, the overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees, 4.8 million, are still in the Middle East region, of whom 253,000 were registered in 2016. There are 13.5 million people in need inside Syria, of whom 6.5 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Lebanon, one in four persons is a refugee. If the European Union and its over 500 million population were to host a similar proportion of Syrian refugees, this would mean 125 million Syrian refugees in Europe. This number is to be contrasted with the total number of application for asylum in the EU in 2015: 1.26 million ...[continue reading](#)

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