

## Refugees challenges, solutions and recommendation

United Nations High Commission (UNHCR is the office of OCHA, office of Humanitarian Affairs

**OCHA:** is the arm of the UN Secretariat that is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort. **In 1991 the General Assembly passed Resolution 46/182**

OCHA's mission: is to **mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action** in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies; advocate for the rights of people in need; promote preparedness and prevention; and facilitate sustainable solutions.

### **Background/origin UNHCR:**

End of WWII **1945** , in Europe refugee there was a crisis and millions of displaced. The United Nations created IRO (International refugee organisation).

**In 1947** UN resolution 319 IV, United Nations relief and rehabilitation (mandate for 3 years)

**1950** United Nations General Assembly created UNHCR (annexed resolution 428V) to help all refugees over the world.

**The 28<sup>th</sup> July 1951** UN approved UNHCR; many countries signed the convention relating to the status of refugees and its protocol 1967(IDPs) **Commissioner for UNHCR is : Antonio Guterres (Portugal)**

- **Definition:** according the 1951 UN convention, Article 1A (2):  
**A refugee** is a person who "**owing to a well-founded fear** of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...".
- UNHCR mandate is **to provide, a non-political and Humanitarian basis, international protection to refugee**
- **Seek permanent solution for them**

### **In New Zealand refugees are in two categories:**

- **Spontaneous refugees** :are people who claim refugee status on arriving at the border or after entering(approved ,pending ,rejected)
- **Quota refugees** who are accepted by New Zealand Government in connection UNHCR for residence also enjoy the same rights as other New Zealand citizens

### **UNHCR Statistic refugees:**

There were **43.3 million** forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end 2009

- **15.2 million** refugees(**10.4** under UNHCR category)
- **4.8 million** Palestinians refugees under UNRWA's mandate **United Nations Relief and Works Agency**
- **983.000** Asylum seekers
- **27,1** million Internally displaced persons (**IDPs**)

**There only three** different **Solutions** for refugees:

**Repatriation:** Works with the country of origin and host countries to help refugee to return

**Local integration:** The host country allows recipients to live in dignity and peace (Burundian in Tanzania)

**Resettlement:** Alternation for those who cannot go home, made possible UNHCR and Governments (e.g. NZ refugee Quota)

So far **1%** of refugees get resettlement,  
UNHCR has only resettled 84,000 refugees out of 15.2 million at the end 2009

### **Why people leave home and become refugees?**

War, ethnic and political conflicts, Natural disasters, economic crisis (Climate change!!!)

South Africa was the 1<sup>st</sup> country to received individual claims than any country followed by USA and France (end 2009)

**49%** represent woman and children for all the refugees

Challenges in refugee camps:

- Stress, trauma as families lost their families, friends etc...
- Most refugees are unemployment and can't get extra income to survive
- Sexual abuse, risk of human trafficking and exploitation,
- Crime
- Overcrowded ,risk of disease contamination
- No hope for future as many don't have occupation
- Xenophobia

### **Recommendations/Suggestion:**

- ✓ Refugee should get the durable solution(repatriation, resettlement, integration)
- ✓ UNHCR should support capacity building ,empower refugees
- ✓ Students should have priority to education
- ✓ Refugees should not be warehoused

### **Difference between refugee and Migrant:**

**M** Migrants choose to leave their homeland and settle in a country of their choice.

**M**igrants depart for their new country knowing that they can return to their homeland for visits, or return permanently if they cannot settle.

**M**igrants arrange the most suitable method of travel and pack the possessions they wish to take.

**M**igrants can sell or dispose of possessions they don't wish to take.

In where they go and by what means they will travel.

**M**igrants have time to emotionally prepare for their departure and to farewell friends and family appropriately.

**M**igrants take with them their travel documents, passports, and other documentation including, Educational qualifications.

**R**efugees often flee without any documentation whatsoever.  
**M**igrants usually emigrate with their families.

**Refugees**, although they dream of returning home, know that this is unlikely to happen

**Refugees** have little in the way of possessions and financial resources.

They are often debilitated by a pervading sense

Of loss, grief; worry and guilt about the family left behind

**Refugees** may experience stigma and prejudice in their resettlement country in relation to

Cultural differences, disease prevalence, low education levels

**Refugees**, due to their hurried, often secret departure, are unprepared emotionally for leaving, and have no time to farewell loved ones.

**Refugees** no time to pack or to distribute possessions. Everything is left behind.

**Refugees** flee in response to a crisis. They have little choice

**Refugees** do not choose to leave their homeland.

**Refugees** must often leave family members behind.

**Who decide the refugee's determination:** Hosting governments most time is

Immigration departments but they must respect the 1951 conventions.

#### **Who cannot be qualify to be refugee under convention:**

- Economic migrants
- People who committed war crime
- soldier who took military actions

Some historical refugee cases:

- 1962(Chinese In Hong Kong/Indonesia)
- 1944,Polish
- 1956 Hungry
- 1972 Burundian and Rwanda refugees

**Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, D.R. Congo, Viet Nam and Eritrea. Burmese, Colombians, Congo, Rwanda, Palestinians are the world's oldest.**

## UNCRC: United Nations Conventions and right for children

Conventions rights of Child 1989 and two protocols 2000

Convention relating to the status of refugees (1951) and its protocol 1957

Four Geneva conventions 1949 two additional protocol 1977

Defining a child according to Article One of the UNCRC as “every human being below the age of eighteen years”.

### Conventions Rights are:

- Right to participate in decision of their future
- Right to protection(physical and legal)
- Assistance to age &development needs
- Be reunited with their families
- Special needs for girl (not involving them in conflicts, child trafficking)
- Respect with dignity
- Right to opinion

**Separated children:** Have lost parents but may live with someone else (not necessarily died)

**Unaccompanied children:** Most time living alone

**Orphans:** Parents known dead. In some countries a child who lost one parent is called orphan

**Difference depends on circumstances:** some orphans may have lost all parents but have support from extent families while those who live in street struggle

### Cause of separation:

- **Accidental separation** : War, evacuation during natural disasters: Tsunami, Earthquake etc ...

- **Deliberate separation:** Abandoned, arrest of family member, wonder away, repatriation, when disable elder people are in hospital, during flight, family under stress, poverty, breakdown, death, disability of children, choosing to live their families (abuse).

### Danger/challenges

Child soldiers

Disable /sick children esp. HIV

Children living in the street

Trafficking (join criminal group, false adoption & sexual purposes)

Abducted children: drugs etc...

Challenges: small children may not be able to speak (identify them. They may find hard to cope with the unfamiliar places, tired after a long journey, culture choc, language or religion barriers

Longer separation, the lesser the chance of reunification

Some left because behind by families (HIV) may easily affected HIV virus

Have no support, lose school, security, future

### Solutions, recommendations:

- ✓ Children needs care, location, protection
- ✓ Protect assist in place (camps, other centre)
- ✓ Preserve family unity
- ✓ Evacuate/relocated only under proper condition

### Refugee's children:

- ✓ **Long term solution:** resettlement & repatriation for those with UNHCR)
- ✓ Good coordination of children information not to duplication or unnecessary interviews for children. Especially keeping the confidentiality of children, do not expose to danger esp. ethnic's conflicts.
- ✓ Should get psychological and emotional support (sports other activities).

- ✓ Children should get interim care (children indented to return to their families)
- ✓ Education to families: How to prevent separation in emergency
- ✓ Teaching children name, address
- ✓ Teaching international organisation, governments, donors how to help separated children.
- ✓ Care arrangement should be provided to family and community based
- ✓ Prevent separation
- ✓ Family tracing family reunification identify documentation and tracing.
- ✓ Mobilising and empower young people through training and capacity building for their future
- ✓ There should be zero tolerance for those who abuse right of children

### **Youth can make the difference**

- Young people are likely to disclose/speak out the abuse than adult.
- Young people are in good position of fight against abuse
- 

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) Key word (Action for the rights of children)