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HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS AND REFUGEES' WELFARE

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Abstract

The extraordinary magnitude of population displacement, stemming from conflict, persecution, and natural disasters, has exerted significant strain on international organizations, governments, and civil society. Humanitarian interventions, involving various actions undertaken by these entities, are essential in supplying refugees with vital resources, protective measures, and possibilities to endure and reconstruct their lives. This study thoroughly evaluates the influence of humanitarian interventions on refugee welfare, investigating their roles and impacts, addressing their challenges and triumphs, and offering policy recommendations to enhance refugee welfare through more effective humanitarian initiatives. The research design is qualitative, employing secondary data sources including scholarly publications, policy documents, and reports from international organizations and NGOs. Data and visualizations from Our World in Data were utilized to examine trends and patterns in refugee welfare, encompassing access to fundamental requirements, protection, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and psychosocial assistance. The results underscore the substantial influence of humanitarian efforts on refugee well-being, as demonstrated by the examination of the Syrian and Rohingya refugee crises. The graphical representation depicts the significant spike in asylum applicants resulting from these crises and the extent of dislocation experienced by impacted populations. The study highlights the necessity of ongoing and extensive humanitarian aid to meet the varied requirements of refugees, encompassing shelter, nutrition, healthcare, psychosocial support, and protection. The study indicates that humanitarian interventions are essential for improving refugee welfare; nonetheless, hurdles remain, including resource limitations, coordination difficulties, and the necessity to transition from short-term relief to long-term development. Recommendations encompass enhancing global alliances, ensuring equitable burden-sharing, integrating long-term development goals, refining legislative frameworks, prioritizing vulnerable populations, and investigating novel finance options.

Keywords Humanitarian interventions, Refugee welfare, Forced displacement, Sustainable solutions, Policy recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

Amidst the urgent backdrop of the global refugee crisis, swift and effective humanitarian actions are crucial. The unprecedented scale of population displacement, a result of conflict, persecution, and natural disasters, has created immense pressure on international organizations, governments, and civil society. Immediate relief efforts and sustained assistance are vital in providing refugees with the necessary resources, safety measures, and opportunities to survive and rebuild their lives.

The phenomenon known as the worldwide refugee crisis pertains to the systematic displacement of a substantial number of individuals who have been compelled to abandon their residences because of acts of violence, persecution, or environmental calamities. Based on data provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it is estimated that as of 2022, the global population of forcibly displaced individuals exceeded 103 million, with 32.5 million of them being classified as refugees (UNHCR, 2022). The magnitude of the problem is immense, as conflicts in nations such as Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan have played a significant role in facilitating substantial influxes of refugees. Furthermore, the phenomenon of climate change is intensifying natural disasters, leading to the displacement of individuals worldwide. This has resulted in climate refugees in several places, including the Pacific Islands and sub-Saharan Africa (UNHCR, 2021).

The ramifications of the refugee crisis are deeply significant. Refugees encounter a multitude of obstacles, encompassing inadequate availability of fundamental necessities such as sustenance, potable water, and adequate housing; susceptibility to acts of violence and exploitation; and restricted prospects for educational attainment and gainful work. Many refugees face the potential of statelessness, exacerbating the constraints on their capacity to obtain legal

safeguards and fundamental entitlements. The worldwide response to the refugee crisis has exhibited disparities, as certain countries and areas have borne an inequitable share of the responsibility for accommodating refugees. Consequently, there has been a notable increase in the burden on local resources and infrastructure, accompanied by the emergence of social conflicts between host communities and refugees (Betts, 2021).

The worldwide refugee issue is exacerbated by the inherent protracted nature of numerous conflicts and crises, resulting in refugees frequently enduring prolonged periods of relocation, ranging from years to even decades. A notable illustration of this phenomenon is the Syrian conflict, which commenced in 2011, leading to the displacement of millions of individuals over a duration exceeding ten years. Refugees originating from nations such as Afghanistan and Somalia have endured prolonged periods of displacement, leaving them with limited prospects of repatriation in the foreseeable future (UNHCR, 2022). The extended period of displacement poses further difficulties for humanitarian groups and host governments, as they are tasked with devising strategies to address immediate relief needs and sustainable development for refugees.

Humanitarian interventions encompass a range of measures implemented by international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and many other entities to deliver aid to individuals impacted by conflicts, natural calamities, and other unforeseen emergencies. Humanitarian principles administer the interventions, including neutrality, impartiality, and independence. Their primary objective is to mitigate human suffering and safeguard the dignity and rights of individuals (OCHA, 2020). Within refugee circumstances,

humanitarian actions play a pivotal role in ensuring that refugees are equipped with fundamental essentials for sustenance, hydration, habitation, and healthcare. Furthermore, they assume a crucial function in safeguarding refugees against acts of violence and exploitation and aiding their endeavours in reconstructing their lives while in exile or upon repatriation to their countries of origin.

The humanitarian actions implemented in refugee circumstances can be broadly classified into two distinct categories: emergency aid and long-term support. Emergency assistance initiatives commonly prioritize the remediation of refugees' immediate necessities, encompassing the provision of sustenance, potable water, and healthcare services. These interventions are frequently employed during the initial phases of a refugee crisis, as refugees are compelled to leave their homes due to violence or calamity and urgently need aid. During the early phases of the Syrian refugee crisis, multinational humanitarian organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) extended assistance in the form of food aid, medical care, and temporary housing to refugees who sought refuge in neighbouring nations like Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey (WFP, 2021).

In contrast, long-term assistance interventions prioritize facilitating refugees' long-term integration and reconstruction of their livelihoods. These interventions may encompass providing educational and vocational training, assisting refugees in obtaining legal protection and rights, and facilitating access to jobs and economic prospects. For instance, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has undertaken educational initiatives targeting refugee children in Uganda and Bangladesh. Similarly, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has devised programs to bolster the economic well-

being of refugees in countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia (UNICEF, 2021; ILO, 2022).

It is crucial to underscore the pivotal role of humanitarian assistance in refugee circumstances. The initiatives mentioned above often serve as the sole means of support for refugees, providing them with the necessary resources and protection to endure severe adversity. In many cases, humanitarian organizations step in as the primary responders in refugee crises, intervening to offer aid when governments are unable or unwilling to do so. Their actions are of utmost importance in upholding the rights and dignity of refugees, ensuring their recognition as autonomous individuals with potential rather than mere aid recipients (Sphere Association, 2018).

Nevertheless, humanitarian initiatives come with problems. Refugee crises frequently surpass the operational capabilities of humanitarian groups due to their extensive magnitude and intricate nature. More financial resources, logistical complexities, and political impediments must be needed to aid individuals seeking sanctuary. Moreover, the prolonged duration of numerous refugee crises necessitates humanitarian organizations to devise strategies to shift their focus from delivering immediate assistance to facilitating sustainable development, demanding a distinct skill set and allocation of resources (Betts, 2021).

The global refugee crisis, with over 103 million forcibly displaced individuals, presents a significant challenge to the international community. The protracted nature of many refugee crises necessitates a shift from short-term relief to sustainable solutions that promote self-reliance and integration. A comprehensive analysis of humanitarian interventions is crucial to identify best practices, address challenges, and develop more effective and durable solutions to this global crisis.

This study sought to critically analyze the impact of humanitarian interventions on refugee welfare in the contemporary context. To achieve this, it examined the role and effects of these interventions, explored their challenges and successes, and ultimately provided policy recommendations for improving refugee welfare through more effective humanitarian efforts.

This study holds significant implications for addressing the global refugee crisis by providing a comprehensive analysis of humanitarian interventions and their impact on refugee well-being. By examining the challenges and successes of various approaches, this research aims to identify best practices and inform more effective and sustainable strategies for assisting refugees. Ultimately, the insights generated from this study can contribute to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian interventions, thereby improving the lives of refugees worldwide.

Historical Overview

The historical trajectory of humanitarian actions in refugee situations can be traced back to the early 20th century. One notable instance of international humanitarian involvement during a refugee crisis is the formation of the League of Nations High Commission for Refugees in 1921. This initiative responded to the significant displacement of individuals following World War I and the Russian Revolution, under the leadership of Fridtjof Nansen, the High Commission extended aid to refugees from Russia, Armenia, and several other nations. Additionally, the commission devised the Nansen Passport, a travel document that facilitated the movement of stateless migrants across national boundaries (Loescher, 2020).

The inception of contemporary humanitarian action in refugee crises may be traced back to the post-World War II period, when the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was established, followed by the subsequent

foundation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR was established in 1950 with the primary objective of safeguarding and aiding refugees and seeking sustainable resolutions to their predicament. During its first stages, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) primarily concentrated on delivering aid to European refugees. However, its jurisdiction swiftly broadened to encompass refugee emergencies in many regions across the globe, including Africa, Asia, and Latin America (UNHCR, 2022).

During the second part of the 20th century, there was a notable growth in the frequency of humanitarian interventions in refugee crises. This can be attributed to the escalating hostilities and political turmoil experienced in various locations, including Southeast Asia, Central America, and the Horn of Africa, which resulted in widespread displacement of populations. An exemplary instance can be observed in the handling of the Vietnamese boat people problem throughout the 1970s and 1980s, wherein a substantial number of Vietnamese refugees sought sanctuary by water to evade political oppression and dire economic conditions. Humanitarian groups, in collaboration with governments in Southeast Asia and Western nations, implemented emergency aid and relocation initiatives to address the needs of the refugees (Helton, 2021).

In contemporary times, humanitarian interventions have emerged as a critical element within the global framework addressing refugee crises in nations such as Syria, South Sudan, and Myanmar. The Syrian refugee crisis, initiated in 2011, has resulted in the forced migration of more than 6.8 million individuals, rendering it one of the most extensive refugee crises in contemporary times. Prominent humanitarian entities, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of

the Red Cross (ICRC), and diverse non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have assumed a leading role in delivering urgent assistance, safeguarding and facilitating the migration of Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 2021). Moreover, the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar, which intensified in 2017, has prompted extensive humanitarian operations in Bangladesh, where more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees presently reside in densely populated camps (Human Rights Watch, 2022).

Although humanitarian actions have undeniably preserved several lives and provided crucial assistance to refugees, they have also encountered significant criticism. Certain scholars claim that humanitarian interventions have the potential to sustain reliance on assistance and neglect to tackle the underlying factors contributing to widespread displacement effectively. Numerous scholars highlight the difficulties associated with coordinating interventions in intricate and politically delicate settings, wherein the ability to reach impacted communities may be constrained due to security considerations or governmental limitations (Duffield, 2020). Notwithstanding these obstacles, humanitarian interventions continue to be a vital element of the worldwide address to refugee crises, serving as a crucial means of support for millions of individuals who have been forcibly displaced across the globe.

The Role of Humanitarian Interventions on Refugee Welfare

Humanitarian interventions encompass emergency relief measures implemented by international organizations, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to mitigate human distress throughout times of crisis. Crises can emerge due to conflicts, natural calamities, pandemics, or other unforeseen events that cause significant disruptions to the well-being of individuals and communities. The International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC, 2020) posits that humanitarian interventions are based on fundamental principles such as humanism, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. Their primary objective is to mitigate human suffering and preserve the dignity of targeted populations.

Humanitarian interventions are critical for enhancing refugee welfare, with diverse strategies demonstrating effectiveness across various contexts. Access to fundamental necessities like clean water, food, and shelter is paramount, as exemplified by the challenges faced in Rwanda's Mahama Refugee Camp due to inadequate provisions (Xing, 2023). Comprehensive assessments in Jordan and Lebanon further underscore the importance of meeting these basic needs to prevent long-term impoverishment among Syrian refugees (Verme et al., 2015). Psychosocial support programs, such as Uganda's "Journey of Life," have demonstrated significant positive impacts on caregiver mental health and parenting practices, crucial for refugee children's well-being (Stark, 2024). Furthermore, integrating humanitarian aid with developmental assistance fosters resilience and self-reliance, as evidenced by collaborations between the World Bank and UNHCR (Verme et al., 2015). However, challenges persist, including the need for sustained funding and inter-agency coordination to comprehensively address the multifaceted needs of refugees.

Xing's (2023) analysis of humanitarian assistance in Rwanda's Mahama Refugee Camp identifies successes and challenges in addressing the needs of refugees. Despite the positive perception of aid implementation, substantial gaps remain in accessing essential resources such as clean water and food, which obstruct self-reliance. This is consistent with extensive research highlighting the significance of immediate relief alongside long-term development assistance (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020; Mirzamani et al., 2022). Xing's (2023)

study fails to address the important factor of psychosocial well-being, which is essential for comprehensive refugee welfare, as demonstrated by the effectiveness of initiatives such as Uganda's "Journey of Life" (Stark, 2024). This study acknowledges the necessity of self-reliance and suggests that it could be improved by examining the integration of humanitarian interventions with development initiatives, such as those utilized by the World Bank and UNHCR (Verme et al., 2015), to foster sustainable solutions and enhance refugee well-being, thereby addressing this gap.

Stark's (2024) research on the "Journey of Life" (JoL) program in Uganda provides substantial evidence regarding the efficacy of psychosocial interventions in enhancing the well-being of refugees. The study employed a quasi-experimental design featuring a waitlist-control group, involving 1307 refugee caregivers in the Kiryandongo settlement. Propensity score matching and Cohen's effect size estimates indicated significant improvements in mental distress, social support, functioning, parental warmth, and attitudes towards violence against children among participants who underwent the JoL intervention. The program's success underscores the significance of comprehensive strategies that consider both caregiver mental health and parenting practices to improve the well-being of refugee families.

Stark's (2024) research offers significant insights, yet it predominantly emphasizes the parent-child relationship within the family context. A potential gap exists in the insufficient examination of broader social integration and community-level effects. This study emphasizes the complex dimensions of refugee welfare, including social integration as well as physical and mental health.

Stark's (2024) findings align with other research highlighting the significance of psychosocial support for refugees. Research by Breugem et al.

(2023) demonstrated the efficacy of group-based interventions in alleviating mental health issues among Syrian refugees in the Netherlands. A study by Sleiman-Malkoun et al. (2021) demonstrated the effectiveness of culturally sensitive mental health programs in enhancing the well-being of Lebanese and Syrian refugee women.

Stark's (2024) study would benefit from an analysis of the long-term sustainability of the observed improvements. This aligns with the research objective of this study, which is to examine how humanitarian interventions can reconcile short-term relief with long-term development goals.

Factors contributing to refugee crises

The fundamental factors contributing to refugee crises can be classified into three principal categories: conflict and warfare, political oppression, and displacement resulting from natural disasters and climate change. The components frequently exhibit interactions and overlaps, resulting in intricate and multifaceted displacement scenarios.

o Conflict and warfare

Conflict and warfare continue to be the primary factors contributing to forced displacement on a global scale. The Syrian civil war, initiated in 2011, has emerged as one of the most consequential refugee crises of the 21st century. The number of Syrian refugees who have sought sanctuary in neighboring nations has exceeded 6.8 million, as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2022). The ongoing conflict has led to extensive devastation, wherein civilians find themselves ensnared amid hostilities between national armed forces, insurgent factions, and extremist groups.

Furthermore, the ongoing fighting in Afghanistan has resulted in the emergence of a substantial and enduring refugee community, ranking among the

largest globally. A prolonged period of armed conflict, which reached its climax in 2021 with the Taliban's resurgence, has compelled a significant number of Afghan individuals to seek refuge in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, as well as other geographically distant nations (UNHCR, 2022). The prevailing conditions in Afghanistan continue to exhibit instability, as persistent violence and economic decay contribute to the exacerbation of displacement.

Conflicts in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continuously give rise to substantial influxes of refugees in Africa. The ongoing civil war in South Sudan, initiated in 2013, has resulted in the displacement of more than 4 million individuals, with over 2.3 million seeking asylum in neighbouring nations (UNHCR, 2022). Decades of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have resulted in a prolonged refugee crisis, wherein more than 900,000 Congolese refugees currently reside in nations including Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

o Political Persecution

Political persecution constitutes a substantial catalyst for the phenomenon of relocation. The Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar has been subjected to widespread systemic prejudice and acts of brutality perpetrated by both the military and government for several decades. In 2017, the situation had a significant escalation because of a severe military operation, which compelled more than 740,000 Rohingya individuals to seek refuge in bordering Bangladesh (Human Rights Watch, 2021). In both Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Rohingya population continues to experience statelessness, resulting in restricted access to fundamental rights and services.

Eritrea is a nation that has had substantial refugee outflows because of political repression. The Eritrean government, characterized by its authoritarian system, has been widely recognized

for its extensive violations of human rights, encompassing coerced conscription, arbitrary incarceration, and torture. Consequently, a significant number of Eritreans have been compelled to seek refuge in neighbouring nations such as Sudan, Ethiopia, and Libya (UNHCR, 2021). The prevailing repressive characteristics of the Eritrean regime render the prospect of refugees being able to repatriate to their home country in the foreseeable future quite improbable.

o Natural Disasters

Natural catastrophes and displacement resulting from climate change are becoming increasingly prominent factors contributing to the movement of refugees. The phenomenon of climate change has significantly amplified the occurrence and severity of natural calamities, resulting in the forced relocation of about one billion individuals around the globe. One notable example of a region that exhibits a high susceptibility to the impacts of increasing sea levels and extreme weather phenomena, such as cyclones and flooding, is the Pacific Islands. According to McAdam (2012), the escalating sea levels pose a significant threat to the livelihoods of entire communities in nations such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, perhaps leading to their displacement as climate refugees.

Millions of individuals in South Asia are displaced yearly because of floods and storms. Bangladesh, specifically, is susceptible to floods because of its geographically low-lying terrain and abundant monsoon precipitation. Due to the confluence of climate change, population density, and poverty, Bangladesh emerges as a highly susceptible nation to displacement resulting from climate impact (IDMC, 2021). Likewise, across the sub-Saharan African region, the occurrence of extended periods of drought and desertification has compelled pastoralist tribes to undertake migration in pursuit of water resources and suitable grazing areas. Consequently, this has engendered tensions

and conflicts with neighbouring populations.

Challenges Encountered by Refugees

As refugees endeavour to attain safety and stability inside their host nations, they encounter a multitude of obstacles. The obstacles encompass limited availability of fundamental resources, potential health hazards, psychological well-being concerns, as well as legal and safeguarding considerations. The precariousness inherent in the process of displacement frequently amplifies these difficulties, rendering refugees susceptible to exploitation and mistreatment.

o Insufficient Availability of Basic Necessities

The dearth of access to fundamental essentials, including sustenance, hydration, and housing, poses a significant and pressing obstacle for refugees. Refugee camps frequently suffer from excessive population density and inadequate resources, resulting in restricted availability of vital services. In the context of Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar refugee camp, which accommodates a population exceeding 900,000 Rohingya refugees, the provision of clean water, sanitary facilities, and suitable housing continues to pose a substantial obstacle (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Furthermore, a significant number of refugees reside in urban regions, where they encounter challenges in securing inexpensive housing and employment opportunities, so exacerbating their sense of insecurity.

o Potential Health Hazards and Insufficient Healthcare Provision

Public health concerns are a significant issue for refugees, particularly in densely populated camps where the transmission of diseases can occur at a rapid pace. The healthcare accessibility for refugees is frequently constrained, resulting in a significant prevalence of malnutrition, infectious infections, and chronic health issues among this population. In conjunction with physical health

difficulties, refugees face an elevated susceptibility to mental health disorders because of the traumatic experiences of displacement, loss, and violence (World Health Organization, 2021). International humanitarian organizations, such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), play a crucial role in delivering vital healthcare services to refugees. However, the demand for these services frequently surpasses the existing resources.

Case Studies of Humanitarian Interventions

o An Analysis of the Syrian Refugee Response:

Collaborative Endeavors by UNHCR and Non-Governmental Organizations in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the Syrian refugee issue have emerged as a vital humanitarian predicament in the 21st century. Since the commencement of hostilities in 2011, a substantial number of Syrian individuals have sought sanctuary in regional nations such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The reaction has necessitated substantial coordination among multiple stakeholders.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has assumed a pivotal role in global efforts to address the Syrian refugee crisis. The UNHCR has collaborated extensively with national governments and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey to facilitate the provision of housing, sustenance, and healthcare services to refugees (UNHCR, 2021). The organization has been instrumental in enabling the creation of refugee camps, such as the Zaatari camp in Jordan, and has assisted with community-based initiatives (Goubran, 2017).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as MSF and Save the Children have played a crucial role in providing essential healthcare, education, and protection services to Syrian refugees. In the context of Lebanon, where the presence of

refugees has placed considerable pressure on local resources, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a crucial role in delivering vital services and facilitating community integration initiatives (Khalaf, 2019). Considering its status as the host country for the highest number of Syrian refugees, Turkey has garnered significant international assistance in effectively handling the influx and delivering comprehensive services (Ozturk, 2020).

Notwithstanding the concerted endeavours, persistent problems have been encountered, encompassing issues such as camp overpopulation, resource constraints, and historical political tensions. Nevertheless, the adoption of a collaborative strategy has resulted in notable accomplishments, including the amelioration of living circumstances within refugee camps and the augmentation of educational and healthcare accessibility (UNHCR, 2021).

o Rohingya Refugee Crisis in the Cox's Bazar Refugee Camps of Bangladesh

The Rohingya refugee crisis, which began in August 2017, originates from a campaign of violence and persecution directed at the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The severe repression, marked by extensive homicides, sexual violence, and arson, compelled more than 740,000 Rohingya to escape into Bangladesh, seeking refuge in the Cox's Bazar district (UNHCR, 2021). The substantial flood of migrants has established one of the largest and most densely inhabited refugee settlements globally, exerting significant pressure on current resources and infrastructure (Rahman & Alam, 2020).

The humanitarian requirements in these camps are substantial and complex. Refugees arrive traumatized, many possessing only the garments they wear. Overcrowding, insufficient sanitation, and restricted access to potable water facilitate the

transmission of disease, especially among at-risk populations such as children and the elderly (WHO, 2022). A considerable number of refugees, especially women and children, are susceptible to exploitation and abuse, encompassing human trafficking and gender-based violence (IOM, 2023).

Ensuring fundamental demands such as sustenance, accommodation, and medical care is paramount; nevertheless, attending to the long-term requirements of this displaced demographic is also essential. This entails guaranteeing access to education, mental health services, and employment opportunities to promote self-sufficiency and resilience (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020). The conflict has significantly affected mental health, evidenced by elevated instances of PTSD, depression, and anxiety among Rohingya refugees (Khan et al., 2022).

The reaction to the Rohingya issue has been substantial, with numerous international organizations, NGOs, and the Bangladeshi government diligently aiding and support. Nonetheless, the magnitude of the problem persists in presenting significant obstacles. Funding deficiencies, logistical limitations, and the persistent political climate in Myanmar obstruct the provision of comprehensive and sustainable solutions (IRIN, 2023). The Rohingya refugee crisis persists as a complicated and enduring humanitarian disaster, necessitating ongoing international focus and dedication to safeguard the welfare of this at-risk group.

METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a qualitative research design to examine the complex relationship between humanitarian interventions and refugee welfare, emphasizing the analysis of secondary data sources. This method facilitated a thorough review of the literature concerning humanitarian interventions, refugee studies, and associated domains, encompassing academic articles, policy

documents, and grey literature generated by international organizations and NGOs.

The research conducted a thorough examination of academic databases and online repositories, utilizing data and visualizations from Our World in Data to compile pertinent publications and reports on multiple dimensions of refugee welfare, including access to basic needs, protection, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and

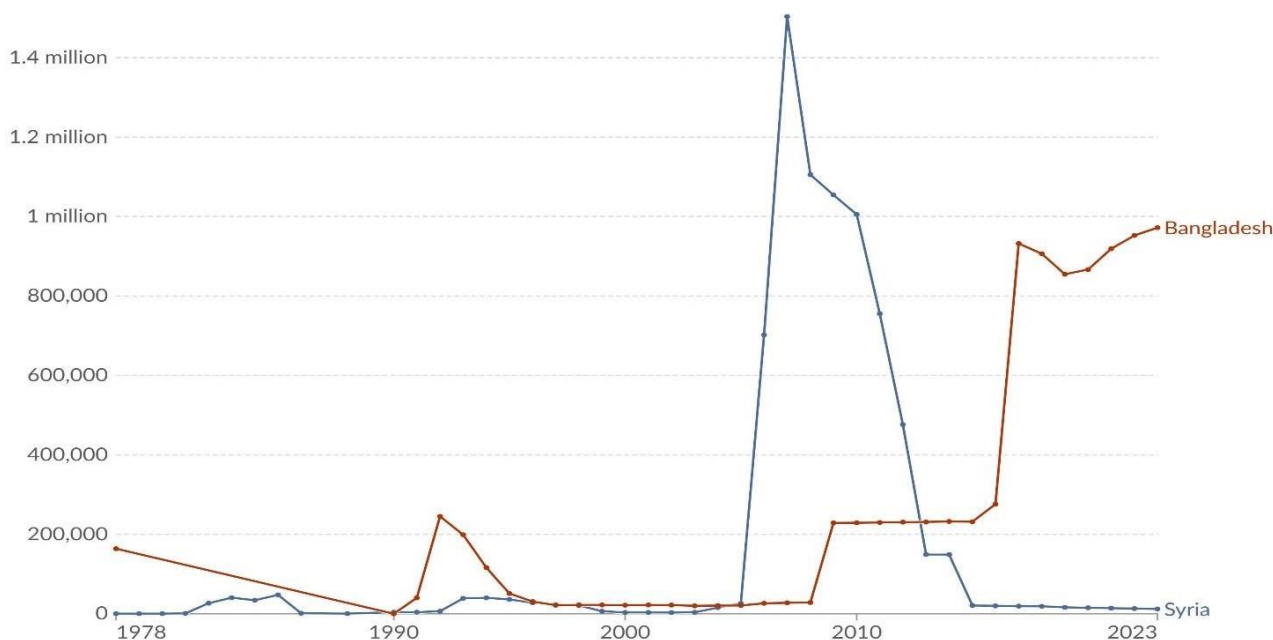
psychosocial support. This qualitative methodology, supplemented by quantitative data from sources such as Our World in Data, facilitated a detailed examination of the intricate challenges and opportunities linked to humanitarian interventions and their efficacy in enhancing the welfare of refugees across various contexts.

RESULTS

Refugee population by country or territory of asylum, 1978 to 2023



The total number of refugees¹ by country that they are seeking asylum in.



Data source: UNHCR (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/migration | CC BY

1. **Refugee:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines refugees in the following way: "Those in need of international protection, being outside their country of origin because of serious threats against which the authorities of their home country cannot or will not protect them. In addition, individuals who are outside their country of origin (typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders) but who may not qualify as refugees under international or regional law, may in certain circumstances also require international protection, on a temporary or longer-term basis. This may include, for example, persons who are displaced across an international border in the context of disasters or the adverse effects of climate change but who are not refugees. In such situations, a need for international protection would reflect the inability of the country of origin to protect against serious harm."

Figure 1 Refugee population by country or territory of asylum from 1978 to 2023

Authors Analysis

This graph in Figure 1 illustrates the refugee population by country or territory of asylum from 1978 to 2023, providing insights into the dynamics

of forced displacement and its implications for humanitarian interventions and refugee welfare. The visualization illustrates two significant refugee crises: the Syrian crisis, which has seen a substantial rise in asylum seekers since 2011, and

the Rohingya crisis, noted for a marked increase in 2017.

The Syrian refugee crisis represents a significant humanitarian challenge, characterized by the mass displacement of individuals due to ongoing conflict and instability within Syria. This situation has resulted in a complex interplay of social, political, and economic factors affecting both the refugees and host countries.

The graph demonstrates the significant increase in the number of Syrian refugees due to the Syrian civil war, rising from a minimal count in 2011 to over 6.5 million by 2016. The significant outflow of individuals, prompted by severe conflict, extensive human rights violations, and the breakdown of critical services, has exerted considerable pressure on adjacent nations and the global humanitarian framework (UNHCR, 2021). The graph highlights the necessity for ongoing humanitarian aid to address the fundamental requirements of Syrian refugees, such as shelter, food, healthcare, and protection (Chatty & Hundt, 2021). Additionally, it underscores the significance of tackling the enduring challenges encountered by Syrian refugees, including access to education, employment opportunities, and mental health assistance (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020).

The Rohingya refugee crisis involves the mass displacement of the Rohingya people from Myanmar, primarily due to ethnic and religious persecution. This situation has led to significant

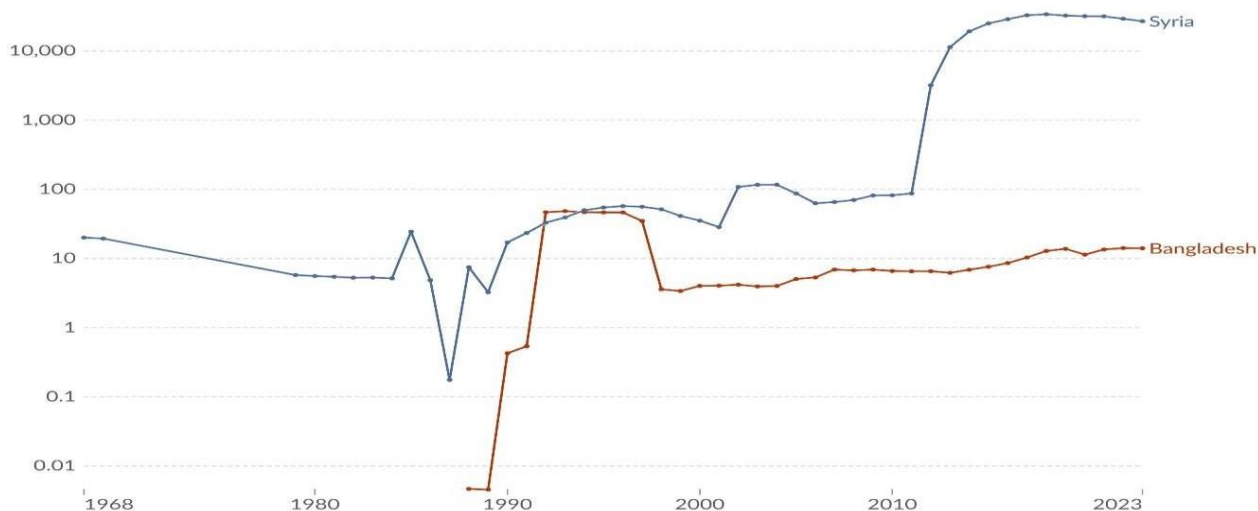
humanitarian challenges, including inadequate access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare for the displaced populations in neighbouring countries.

The graph illustrates the severity of the Rohingya refugee crisis, highlighting a significant increase in 2017 after the military's violent actions against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine State. The mass exodus, marked by severe violence and human rights violations, compelled more than 740,000 Rohingya to seek refuge in Bangladesh (UNHCR, 2021). The graph highlights the critical necessity for humanitarian interventions to meet the immediate needs of Rohingya refugees in overcrowded camps, encompassing access to safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, and healthcare (WHO, 2022). This underscores the necessity of delivering psychosocial support to mitigate the trauma faced by Rohingya refugees and to promote resilience (Khan et al., 2022).

The graph illustrates the interconnectedness of forced displacement and the global dynamics of refugee flows. The statement emphasizes the collective obligation of the international community to offer protection and support to refugees, irrespective of their origin. The graph underscores the necessity for comprehensive strategies that tackle both the urgent humanitarian requirements of refugees and the enduring challenges of integration and sustainable solutions (Mirzamani et al., 2022).

Number of refugees per 100,000 population, by country of origin

People recognized as refugees¹, as a proportion of the total population of their country of origin.



Data source: UNHCR (2024); Population based on various sources (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/migration | CC BY

1. **Refugee:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines refugees in the following way: "Those in need of international protection, being outside their country of origin because of serious threats against which the authorities of their home country cannot or will not protect them. In addition, individuals who are outside their country of origin (typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders) but who may not qualify as refugees under international or regional law, may in certain circumstances also require international protection, on a temporary or longer-term basis. This may include, for example, persons who are displaced across an international border in the context of disasters or the adverse effects of climate change but who are not refugees. In such situations, a need for international protection would reflect the inability of the country of origin to protect against serious harm."

Figure 2. The number of refugees per 100,000 population by country of origin

The Authors Analysis

This graph in figure 2 depicts the number of refugees per 100,000 population by country of origin from 1978 to 2023, offering insights into the dynamics of forced displacement and its consequences for humanitarian efforts and refugee well-being. The graph emphasizes the severity of displacement experienced by populations by examining the ratio of refugees to the population of their country of origin.

The Syrian refugee crisis represents a significant humanitarian challenge, characterized by the displacement of millions due to ongoing conflict and instability in the region.

The graph effectively demonstrates the magnitude of the Syrian refugee crisis. In 2011, the number of refugees per 100,000 of the Syrian population was negligible, but by 2016, it surged to over 10,000,

demonstrating that a substantial segment of the Syrian population was compelled to seek refuge abroad. The significant exodus, resulting from the civil war, extensive human rights violations, and the failure of essential services, has imposed considerable pressure on adjacent nations and the global humanitarian framework (UNHCR, 2021). The graph highlights the critical necessity for ongoing and extensive humanitarian aid to meet the diverse needs of Syrian refugees, encompassing shelter, food, healthcare, psychosocial support, and protection (Chatty & Hundt, 2021). This underscores the significance of sustainable solutions, including access to education, employment opportunities, and integration pathways, to facilitate the rebuilding of lives for Syrian refugees (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020).

The Rohingya refugee crisis represents a

significant humanitarian issue, characterized by the mass displacement of the Rohingya people from Myanmar. This situation has raised concerns regarding human rights violations, international response, and the long-term implications for regional stability.

The graph illustrates the severity of the Rohingya refugee crisis, evidenced by a significant rise in the number of refugees per 100,000 Rohingya population in 2017. The increase occurred after the severe military repression in Myanmar's Rakhine State, compelling hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to seek refuge in Bangladesh (UNHCR, 2021). The graph highlights the urgent necessity for humanitarian interventions to meet the fundamental needs of Rohingya refugees residing in overcrowded camps, which encompass access to safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and protection from exploitation and abuse (WHO, 2022). Additionally, it underscores the significance of mental health and psychosocial support programs in addressing the trauma faced by Rohingya refugees, thereby enhancing their well-being and resilience (Khan et al., 2022).

The graph facilitates a comparative analysis of forced displacement intensity across various countries by presenting the data as a proportion of the population. The text emphasizes the unequal effects of conflict and persecution on groups, including Syrians and Rohingya. This comparative perspective highlights the necessity for targeted humanitarian interventions that address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of various refugee groups.

The graph highlights the necessity of addressing the fundamental causes of forced displacement, including conflict, human rights violations, and political instability, to avert future crises and foster sustainable solutions for refugees.

DISCUSSION

The graphs in the results section demonstrate the substantial effect of humanitarian efforts on refugee welfare. Figure 1 illustrates the significant increase in asylum seekers resulting from the Syrian crisis since 2011, along with the substantial jump in 2017 attributed to the Rohingya catastrophe. These crises have engendered a multifaceted interaction of social, political, and economic elements impacting both refugees and host nations.

The Syrian refugee crisis has engendered a substantial humanitarian dilemma, marked by the extensive displacement of individuals resulting from persistent violence and instability in Syria (UNHCR, 2021). The substantial rise in the population of Syrian refugees, illustrated in Figure 1, underscores the imperative for sustained humanitarian assistance to meet fundamental requirements such as shelter, sustenance, healthcare, and protection (Chatty & Hundt, 2021). Moreover, it emphasizes the necessity of tackling the enduring issues encountered by Syrian refugees, such as access to education, career prospects, and mental health assistance (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020).

The Rohingya refugee crisis has resulted in considerable humanitarian issues, including insufficient access to necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare for displaced communities in adjacent countries (UNHCR, 2021). The gravity of this situation is depicted in Figure 1, which indicates a substantial rise in 2017 after the military's harsh operations against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine State. The graphic underscores the urgent necessity for humanitarian actions to address the immediate requirements of Rohingya refugees in congested camps, encompassing access to secure shelter, potable water, sanitation, and healthcare (WHO, 2022). It emphasizes the necessity of psychosocial care to alleviate the trauma experienced by Rohingya

refugees and to foster resilience (Khan et al., 2022).

Figure 2 further underscores the gravity of displacement faced by populations by analyzing the ratio of refugees to the population of their country of origin. The graph clearly illustrates the scale of the Syrian and Rohingya refugee crises, emphasizing the significant percentage of these people compelled to seek asylum outside. These graphs highlight the urgent want for sustained and comprehensive humanitarian assistance to address the many requirements of refugees, including shelter, sustenance, healthcare, psychosocial support, and protection (Chatty & Hundt, 2021). It underscores the significance of sustainable solutions, such as access to education, work possibilities, and integration paths, to aid in the reconstruction of life for refugees (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020).

The graphics in the findings section demonstrate the relationship between forced displacement and global refugee flow trends. They underscore the common responsibility of the international community to provide protection and assistance to refugees, regardless of their origin. The visualizations highlight the necessity for comprehensive policies that tackle both the immediate humanitarian requirements of refugees and the enduring issues of integration and sustainable solutions (Mirzamani et al., 2022).

The results substantiate the assertion that humanitarian measures are essential for enhancing refugee welfare. The visuals clearly illustrate the scale of the Syrian and Rohingya refugee crises, emphasizing the pressing requirement for sustained and comprehensive humanitarian assistance to address the varied needs of refugees. The graphics highlight the significance of sustainable solutions, such as access to education, work possibilities, and integration paths, to aid in the reconstruction of refugees'

lives.

To effectively address the global refugee crisis, the international community must prioritize strengthening global partnerships and promoting equitable burden-sharing among host and donor nations. Humanitarian interventions should integrate long-term development strategies, focusing on sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities for refugees. Furthermore, improvements to legal frameworks are essential to protect refugee rights and ensure access to asylum procedures. Vulnerable groups, including women, children, and those with disabilities, require specialized protection and support. Finally, innovative funding mechanisms and increased private sector participation are crucial to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of humanitarian interventions.

CONCLUSION

Refugees need food, water, healthcare, and shelter, which humanitarian efforts provide. They also protect refugees' rights, provide psychological and social support, and offer educational and vocational opportunities. These treatments assist refugees rebuild their lives and improve their welfare. However, money, coordination, political impediments, and shifting from emergency relief to long-term development make humanitarian efforts difficult. Many refugees' lives have been improved and their requirements met despite these hurdles.

Sustainable development requires short-term humanitarian help and long-term development. While immediate aid addresses pressing needs, long-term development measures like economic empowerment and community inclusion help refugees become self-sufficient and benefit host communities. Coordinated and integrative responses for refugee situations can better address urgent and long-term needs.

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