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TOPICS: Refugee and Displacement Crisis in Ukraine, Disaster and Climate Related Displacement and Migration
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Refugee and Displacement Crisis in Ukraine; Recent Updates

Recent updates from the United Nations, in October, have revealed that around $\frac{1}{3}$ of all Ukrainians have now been displaced, an increase from previous reports. Additionally, 4.2 million Ukrainians have applied to national or supranational aid programs, some of which being included under the European Union's temporary protection. Finally, the U.N. reported that 3.1 million Ukrainians have returned to Ukraine, however, 13 million are still considered displaced within the country.¹

The Center for Strategic and International Studies also provided an update to the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia in October of this year. As of September, over 7.5 million Ukrainians had been accounted for outside of the country.² Nearby and neighboring countries including Poland and Germany have reportedly taken in the most Ukrainian refugees, each taking over 1 million. The United Kingdom, United States, Czech Republic, Turkey, and more have also contributed to the temporary protection of Ukrainian refugees and displaced peoples, receiving around 100,000 to 300,000 each. Furthermore, under the United Nations Regional Refugee Response Plan, smaller numbers of refugees have been relocated to countries such as Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania.

Many Ukrainians are also currently residing within Russia, some voluntarily, although most men ages 18-60 have been forced to stay within the country, so as to increase protection, most were moved forcibly. In September, during a public meeting of the UN Security Council, allegations were made by U.S. ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, revealing that well over

¹ Karasapan, Omer. "Ukrainian Refugees: Challenges in a Welcoming Europe." Brookings, 14 Oct. 2022

² "Ukraine War: Russia Denies Responsibility for Poland Blast." *BBC News*, 15 Nov. 2022

one million Ukrainians were being involuntarily relocated to Russia or Russian occupied regions. The Human Rights Watch report shows that these refugees are being grouped by Russian authorities and put through “filtration” processes, which includes body searches, interrogations into political views, and can lead to beating or abuse by these authorities.

Most recently, on November 15, a missile was thought to be launched from Russia, aimed at the western border between Ukraine and Poland. After further investigation, a Russian spokesperson assured that the debris, causing the death of two workers, actually came from a Ukrainian air defense system. However, Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of NATO, still holds Russia responsible as they continue conflict with Ukraine and just days prior, Russia sent over 90 missiles into Ukraine, most of which were shot down.

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Disaster and Climate Related Displacement and Migration; Recent Updates

Many island nations around the world, like the Marshall Islands, no longer have land above sea level, requiring them to build up infrastructure in order to protect their homes, industries, families, etc. If the nation is not able to improve the infrastructure, the 60,000 citizens in the Marshall islands will be forced to flee and migrate to other nations.

The number of migrants fleeing their homes, due to climate change, continues to vary as climate shocks affect nations at a seemingly random rate and severity. In 2021, almost 24 million citizens became displaced within their countries. However, the World Bank recently reported that by the year 2050, about 216 million people could become climate migrants within or outside of their home countries.³

The 27th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties, referred to as COP 27, met in Egypt, beginning in early November of this year. The International Organization for Migration, or IOM, called on countries to: work at decreasing the need for citizens to relocate, aid those who have been forced to flee, and enable safe migration for those who need to leave. This conference also connected nations and promoted the use of good practices and replicating good practices utilized in other nations.

Climate related displacement and distress migration are often linked with one another. This type of mass movement of citizens has disastrous implications on the economy and infrastructure of nations. Harsh weather conditions, including natural disasters, can cause entire communities to flee with little to no time for surrounding regions to prepare for the influx of

³ Goering, Laurie. ““No Higher Ground”: Migration on the Rise as Climate Shocks Grow.” *Reuters*, 16 Nov. 2022

neighbors. These influxes typically occur from rural to urban cities. However, as more disasters occur and climate change prolongs, these city centers have less and less ability to provide for these citizens, leading them to venture outside of a nation's borders for relief. This global trend has initiated increased global promotion of preventative measures and outlines for keeping citizens safe and protecting the government from chaos in times of need.

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GUIDANCE NOTE.