

UNHCR

*Novice
Specialized*



TOPIC: Reintegrating Refugees into Urban Society

CHAIRS: Myles Idrovo, Siena Mondello

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Reintegrating Refugees into Urban Society; Recent Updates

The UNHCR—when it was created—had to only think of 1.2 million refugees. In light of the Russia-Ukraine war, that number has risen even higher to 34.9 million, making the need for reintegration extremely crucial¹. With millions of refugees fleeing Ukraine in pursuit of a life away from lethal danger, a European Regional Refugee Response Program has been implemented this year to collaborate with NGOs and any other related partners to support refugee-hosting countries. This prioritizes critical protection services and humanitarian aid in many countries surrounding Ukraine other than Russia and Belarus. Europe has been extremely welcoming to the Ukrainian refugees but that is not the case for refugees worldwide. When these same countries such as Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic were given the opportunity to accept Syrian refugees during their deadly civil war, they refused to accept the refugees unlike their white Ukrainian counterparts².

One of the most important ideas that should be kept in mind is that once refugees reach their destinations, with proper support, they can serve as critical and essential human resources toward the rebuilding of the host nation. The UNHCR has already implemented solutions regarding this through the CIREFCA model. This partners with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies, made to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) intended to bring rapid and tangible benefits to local communities and returnees. CIREFCA was

¹ “Operational Data Portal.” *Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation* <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>.

² Grey, Mark A. “The Big Exodus of Ukrainian Refugees Isn't an Accident – It's Part of Putin's Plan to Destabilize Europe.” *The Conversation*, 17 Oct. 2022, <https://theconversation.com/the-big-exodus-of-ukrainian-refugees-isnt-an-accident-its-part-of-putins-plan-to-destabilize-europe-182654>.

intended to target central america but other UN bodies have pursued variations of the program for different parts of the world as well³.

Another pressing issue is the fact that many refugees cannot even return home post-conflict and to do so requires a lot of support from governments and with lots of funding. The benefits of just a small amount of this support is shown in countries such as Burundi where almost 200,000 refugees have returned home and started living their lives again. But even their system has flaws as well and the main thing they are all asking for is support. They have even, much like the UN, created goals to reach and strive for in 2022 by partnering with the EU⁴. Many countries could benefit from this support but it needs proper staffing and funding to function and actually help refugees. Overall the needs of refugees worldwide are not being met such as health, nutrition, food, shelter, energy, and education. This all of course falls under the umbrella of support and must be shown in many solutions throughout this debate. Overall UNHCR has been working diligently to help reintegrate and care for refugees around the world and by allowing refugees to go back home is a great way to accomplish this.

³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “‘Helping Refugees to Reintegrate: The Challenges of Rehabilitation’ - Address by Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the 14th Workshop on Management of Field Coordination for Senior United Nations System Representatives, Turin, 4 April 1995.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/admin/hcspeeches/3ae68fa90/helping-refugees-reintegrate-challenges-rehabilitation-address-mrs-sadako.html>.

⁴ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Urges Strong International Support for Burundian Refugees to Return, Rebuild Their Lives.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/11/6362ad2d4/unhcr-deputy-high-commissioner-urges-strong-international-support-burundian.html>

Works Cited

“Operational Data Portal.” *Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation*

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>.

Grey, Mark A. “The Big Exodus of Ukrainian Refugees Isn't an Accident – It's Part of Putin's Plan to Destabilize Europe.” *The Conversation*, 17 Oct. 2022,

<https://theconversation.com/the-big-exodus-of-ukrainian-refugees-isnt-an-accident-its-part-of-putins-plan-to-destabilize-europe-182654>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “‘Helping Refugees to Reintegrate: The Challenges of Rehabilitation’ - Address by Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the 14th Workshop on Management of Field Coordination for Senior United Nations System Representatives, Turin, 4 April 1995.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency,

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/admin/hcspeeches/3ae68fa90/helping-refugees-reintegrate-challenges-rehabilitation-address-mrs-sadako.html>.

“Return and Reintegration.” *International Organization for Migration*,

<https://www.iom.int/return-and-reintegration>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Urges Strong International Support for Burundian Refugees to Return, Rebuild Their Lives.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency,

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/11/6362ad2d4/unhcr-deputy-high-commissioner-urges-strong-international-support-burundian.html>.