



INDIAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UN

STUDY GUIDE

COMMITTEE: ILO

AGENDA: Effects of migration and the regional integration of refugees on the Labour markets.

INTRODUCTION

“It was a horrible time in Syria... In the end we lost all hope. When we came [to Germany] it felt like leaving our relatives who were killed behind,” says Syrian refugee Sana Dawood. After years of continuing to work as a software engineer in her suburb of Damascus during the Syrian Civil War, Sana was forced to flee after the death of her brother. “We struggled on for years in Syria, stayed in the hope that things would get better.” After arriving with her family in Ludwigshafen, Germany, Sana found a job posting on social media from SAP, a German software corporation, for refugee interns. She applied immediately, but because she did not have proof of her education and employment credentials (which is the case for most refugees), recruiters had to assess her skills and experience in-person. She was accepted for a six month paid internship. Her internship, in conjunction with language classes, allowed Sana to secure employment as a software engineer only slightly over a year after relocating to Germany. “Working here helps a lot with integration... It’s better than anything I expected.” Ms. Dawood's experience in Germany stands out as a great success story. The sad reality is that most refugees and asylum seekers that are fleeing to Europe do not have the same access to or success with integration efforts. The world is facing an unprecedented migration: more than 65 million persons have been displaced from their homes, over 20 million of whom are labelled as refugees. The vast majority of such desperate people are fleeing conflict and stagnation throughout the Middle East and Africa (some of the major driving forces being the Syrian and Iraqi civil wars and the war in Afghanistan.) Despite the massive influx, only 107,000 refugees were settled in 2015, and not all successfully. The causes for such migration are primarily internal national conflicts, civil wars, ethnic conflicts, and international conflicts. According to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the majority of refugees are currently living in urban areas, roughly one third in refugee camps, and the remainder in rural areas. The vast majority (more than 80%) live in developing countries, although many seek refuge in Europe. Successful integration into the workforce – the cohesion between work opportunities and refugees’ experience and education – has been determined to be the most effective means to a refugee’s long-term success in a new country. Ensuring this balance between access to education and relevant employment opportunities is thus of paramount importance to the ILO.

HISTORY

● **Historical Background:**

The massive influx of refugees into Europe skyrocketed in early 2015, eventually surpassing global refugee populations since the Second World War. In order to understand the process of refugee integration, one must understand the reasons for the refugee crisis in the first place, as well as the economic and governmental measures that have been taken since then to assist in their integration.

● **Causes of the Refugee Crisis:**

Chief among the causes for the global refugee crisis is the Syrian Civil War, an ongoing armed conflict fought primarily between the regime of President Bashar al-Assad and rebel factions. The matter is made more complicated by the web of international alliances, with some countries (such as Russia and Iran) supporting Assad and others (such as the United States) condemning his regime. The war is being fought by several factions (including the Free Syrian Army, the Al-Nusra Front, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and the Syrian Democratic Forces.) Unrest in Syria (which must be understood within the context of the 2011 Arab Spring) has been a response to growing frustrations with the government, calling for the removal of Assad from office and eventually leading to violent protests. Since then, the conflict has erupted into a full civil war. The global refugee population has surpassed that of the Second World War. As of May 2017, it is estimated by the United Nations that the total number of refugees resulting from the Syrian Civil War is over six million people, most of which being located in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, though many seek settlement in Europe.

The second largest contributor to the refugee crisis is the conflict in Afghanistan. After 13 years of involvement in the nation, the United States returned control to the Afghan government, though the conflict remains ongoing. In January of 2015, the Taliban claimed responsibility for a deadly car bombing in Kabul. Shortly thereafter, ISIL established a branch in the country (by the name of Wilayah Khorasan) and began recruiting local fighters and clashing with the Taliban. Since then, the United States has increased targeted air raids, which has resulted in many civilian deaths. China and Pakistan have been involved in brokering negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban, however since the Taliban's attack on Afghanistan's parliament, the group has been uninterested in peace talks. Accordingly, Afghanistan is now the second largest refugee producer in the world (after Syria.) Unlike Syria, however, most of the Afghan refugees immigrated to Pakistan and Iran and relatively few head to Europe.

Somalia is another massive source of refugees, but the vast majority are dispersed across Africa, very few of which are attempting to settle or seek refuge in Europe. Thus, the Somali refugee crisis is the subject of a different debate. The path for the majority of these refugees out of Syria and Afghanistan and into the European Union is perilous. Hundreds of thousands have died in attempts to flee. Many are subjected to treacherous water passing across the Mediterranean to get to Greece. Although some refugees find success through government support, many are forced to take matters into their own hands. Accordingly, many refugees go undocumented.

Another reason how refugees are becoming refugees is because of the environmental change around us. Climate refugees are on the rise with island nations sinking. Thus it would not be the problem of a handful of countries in the future but every country in the world would either be the cause of refugees or would have to accept them. Else, illegal crossing would become the norm. Hence any decision made today must be taken in consideration with what will happen in the future.

CURRENT SCENARIO

One of the biggest problems concerning the long-term success of refugee labour integration is the lack of comparative data between host countries. At present, there are few international metrics being used to compare integration programs and their success. Data on the employment levels of refugees, refugee employer reports, and refugee earnings (when compared to other worker groups) are all necessary in order to improve and create new integration measures. Quantitative measures are much more prominent in Northern Europe than they are in North America, meaning it is difficult to compare the two. There is a special database in Canada that allows comparisons between Canada and Sweden in terms of economic integration by intake category. All this is to say that there are not sufficient governing metrics in place used to identify and quantify integration effort at the international level.

BLOC POSITIONS

•Governmental Action

Many European host countries have developed programs aiming for refugee integration. These programs are designed to enhance the labour market through the new boon of prospective workers.

Sweden: One of the most lauded examples of these programs is in Sweden, where refugees are offered a two-year period of introduction assistance in which they take language classes, learn about Swedish legal and cultural norms, get an education in the labour market, and have their professional and educational credentials evaluated. Although Sweden is seen as one of the most effective refugee integrators, such measures have not been thoroughly evaluated considering there is a notable lack of international metrics. As such, it is difficult to recommend best practices because of this lack of comparative information – what works in Sweden may not work in other nations.

Germany: Northern European countries have identified internal migration agency to be one for most important factors in the long-term success of refugee labour integration. Accordingly, Germany tries to disperse asylum seekers throughout the country to avoid ghettoization and over-saturation of local economies. The current German system for this distribution is based on tax revenue and population size. The federal government seeks

to match numbers of refugees with local unemployment rates or local employment needs (that correspond to the skills and experiences of incoming refugees.)

Turkey: Despite the focus on the European migration crisis, Turkey is faced with the brunt of the problem, as it is the largest host country (supporting roughly 2.5 million refugees.) Turkey has very strict border control policies, but it has been hinted that if Western European countries do not step up, Turkey could begin lacing their borders, which would mean a massive exodus of refugees from Turkey into mainland Europe.

●On the Basis of Political Affiliation

There have been widespread Western debates (in countries such France, the United Kingdom, and the United States) involving to what extent, if any, such countries should be tasked with supporting refugees. Populist political leaders have sprouted up in response, supporting insular policies that seek to shut out refugees to ensure economic security and national safety.

Conservative View: Western conservatives believe it should not be the responsibility of other nations' governments to support refugees. Prominent populist political leaders such as President Donald Trump of the United States and former presidential nominee Marine Le Pen of France seek insular practices that prohibit or limit the influx of foreigners, such as refugees (a salient recent example of this being President Trump's travel ban on several primarily Muslim areas.)

These conservatives see refugees as both an economic burden as well as a national security threat. Fearing extremism and terrorism, some conservatives feel it is simply not worth the risk. This is the result of a series of attacks in Western countries in recent years (such as the Paris attack, the Manchester attack, the London Bridge attack, and so forth) that foster a general fear of immigrants fleeing primarily Muslim nations.

Liberal View: Liberals believe it is their moral and legal duty to assume responsibility for the refugees fleeing persecution. Refugees are legally entitled to a number of rights, including the right to safe asylum, according to the United Nations Human Rights Council. The 1951 refugee convention established that refugees are entitled to non-refoulement and are guaranteed the rights of any legal non-resident in a host country. Accordingly, liberals believe that they must guarantee refugees access to the same opportunities, such as healthcare, education, and employment, as are considered normal in their host country. Job market integration is a crucial aspect to these opportunities, and programs such as language training, cultural education, as skills assessment are approved and sought after by liberals.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR MODERATED CAUCUSES

Please note you can go beyond these topics. There are merely suggestions.

1. Increased Trafficking And Human Capital Exploitation

2. Security Threats Caused By Refugees
3. Need To Accept Refugees
4. Information Sharing Systems
5. Identification Of Industries For Refugees To Work In
6. Training And Well Being Of Refugees
7. Identity/ Identification Of Refugees
8. Impact On Market By Input Of Additional Refugee Workers
9. Effects of a recession on Refugee Workforce
10. Social Security of Refugees and Contributions
11. How can the ILO improve the quality of life of the millions of displaced persons seeking refuge in the West?
12. How much will it cost?
13. Should countries be forced to accept refugees to bring equilibrium to the burden of distribution of refugees?
14. Should there be international standards of training?
15. Should national governments be solely responsible for the economic burden?
16. How would security threats especially considering idealistic organisations being present in places from where refugees hail from be prevented?
17. How will information sharing be standardised?

RESEARCH LINKS

1. Aiyar, Shekhar, et al. "Integrating Refugees into Labour Markets." [Www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org), Jan. 2016.
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3. Degler, Eve, and Thomas Liebig. "Labour Market Integration of Refugees in Germany." [Www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org), Mar. 2017, www.oecd.org/els/mig/Finding-their-Way-Germany.pdf.
4. Konle-Seidl, Regina, and Georg Bolits. "Labour Market Integration of Refugees: Strategies and Good Practices." [Www.europarl.eu](http://www.europarl.eu), Mar. 2016, [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/578956/IPOL_STU\(2016\)578956_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/578956/IPOL_STU(2016)578956_EN.pdf).
5. Maria Vicenza. "Integrating Refugees into Host Country Labour Markets: Challenges and Policy Options." [Www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org), Transatlantic Council on Migration, Oct. 2016.

6. Martín, Iván. "From Refugees to Workers: Mapping Labour Market Integration Support Measures for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in EU Member States." Bertelsmann Stiftung, vol. 1.
7. Zimmermann, Klaus F. "Refugee and Migrant Labour Market Integration: Europe in Need of a New Policy Agenda." Www.eui.eu, Princeton University, 29 Sept. 2016, www.eui.eu/Projects/TheForum/Documents/Keynotelecture-labour-market-integration.pdf.
8. "A Syrian Refugee Flourishes in German Workforce." *الصفحة الرئيسية - أورينت نت*, BBC, 16 Nov. 2016, orientnews.net/en/news_show/126948/0/A-Syrian-refugeeflourishes-in-German-workforce.
9. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/TCM-Asylum-Desiderio-FINAL.pdf>
10. "Integrating Refugees into the Workforce: A Shared Migration Challenge of the United States and Germany." *AICGS*, www.aicgs.org/2017/04/integrating-refugees-into-the-workforce/.
11. Introduction to Labour Economics PPT Coursework: *University of Victoria, Canada Resources*: <http://web.uvic.ca/~hschuetz/econ370/hndout1.pdf>
12. <http://www.economicdiscussion.net/wages/beginners-guide-to-wages-economics/13923>
13. <http://www.studyingeconomics.ac.uk/module-options/labour-economics/>
14. Webinar: Access to Employment: Connecting Refugees to the Labour Market: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oH-mbJXpIik>
15. The Integration of Migrants and Refugees: LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION | Klaus F Zimmermann: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZA8kQrq86Q>
16. "A Working Solution" *The Economist* 26 May, 2016 <https://www.economist.com/special-report/2016/05/26/a-working-solution>

